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Rootstock Research Foundation Helps Establish Four Field Trials

The Rootstock Research Foundation (RRF) was established by the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Growers Ass'n to promote the development of new, improved rootstocks for deciduous tree fruits. The central, long-range objective is to stimulate the breeding, screening and testing of stocks tailor-made for North America. A major short-range goal is to increase broad-scale field testing of new rootstock candidates.

Experimental rootstock plantings were made in 6 states in the spring of 1976, partly financed by RRF funds. The four trials set, their sites, and the experimenters involved are:

1. 'McIntosh' on Winter Hardy Stocks.

Virus-free 'Imperial McIntosh' are being grown on the USSR stocks 'Budagovsky 118,' 'Bud. 490,' 'Bud. 491'; and on the Canadian stocks 'Ottawa 3,' 'O.7,' 'O.8,' and 'O.11.' Well-replicated trials were set in Wisconsin (Frank Gilbert), Ohio (Dave Ferree), and New York (J. N. Cummins and Frank McNicholas).

2. 'Malling 27' as Rootstocks and as Interstem.

This very dwarfing new English introduction will be on our market in a few years, yet we have no American data on its performance. 'Empire' on 'M.27,' 'M.9,' and 'M.26' rootstocks and on the interstem systems 'M.9'/MM.106,' 'M.27'/MM.106,' 'M.9'/MM.111,' and 'M.27'/MM.111' were set in Massachusetts (Bill Lord), Michigan (Bob Carlson), Ohio (Dave Ferree), and New York (Jim Cummins).

3. 'MacSpur' and 'Imperial McIntosh' are being compared on the hardy stocks 'Malling 11,' 'M.26,' 'Ottawa 5,' 'O.8' and 'O.11.' Plantings were made in Vermont (Bertie Boyce and Joe Constante) and New York (Jim Cummins and Frank McNicholas).

4. Stanley Prunes on new candidate rootstocks, including several accessions from France, on *Prunus tomentosa*, and on some myrobalan selections were set in Michigan (Bob Carlson).

Trees for these plantings were produced by the Department of Pomol-

ogy and Viticulture, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

The next round of apple trials is scheduled to go in in 1977-78. This will feature several of the selections from the breeding program at Skieniewice, Poland, including 'P.2' and 'P.22'; 5 Russian selections, including 'Bud. 9' and 'Bud. 146'; and 'Malling 20' ("Spurious M.9"); some of Bob Carlson's 'MAC' (Michigan Apple

Clone) selections; and some selections from Aleck Hutchinson's program at Vineland, Ontario. Virus-free spur-type 'Delicious' was selected as the scion variety to be used, since 'Delicious' is the leading variety throughout the USA.

James N. Cummins,
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