

Reviews and Abstracts

Rootstocks for Tree Fruits. 1964. By Aleck Hutchinson. Ontario Dept. Agr. Publ. 334. 18 pages.

This new bulletin on fruit rootstocks reflects the growing awareness of the need for utilizing clonal rootstocks of known characteristics, to eliminate variability in the performance of orchard trees, and to control tree size.

The fruits discussed include apple, pear, peach, cherry, plum and apricot. The author discusses the present rootstock situation and makes some recommendations, based mainly on research and experience in North America, with emphasis on experience at the Horticultural Experiment Station at Vineland Station, Ontario.

Apple. The author classifies apple rootstocks as dwarf, semi-dwarf, semi-vigorous and vigorous. He points out that the newer Malling-Merton series—MM 104, MM 106 and MM 111 are superior in some respects to the older Malling clones of similar vigor. Clonal rootstocks budded at least 12 inches above the ground level are recommended, because this enables the grower to plant his trees deeper, which should improve anchorage and growth.

A hardy dwarfing rootstock is still to be found for the coldest areas. Robusta-5, which Ottawa tests show to be the hardiest of the available clone rootstocks for apple, is not at all dwarfing.

Pear. Angers Quince A is recommended for the dwarfing of pear. Because of incompatibilities, interstocks are suggested for Bartlett and Bosc on Quince A. Old Home seems satisfactory for Bartlett, Hardy for Bosc, and Duchess for either variety.

Plum. The clonal Myrobalan B from England is good for plum, but has no dwarfing effect. St. Julian A makes a tree of medium size. At Vineland, selected seedling rootstocks of Nanking cherry (*P. tomentosa*) have given dwarf trees of Shiro and Grand Duke.

Cherry. F 12/1 clonal mazzard from England makes vigorous, uniform sweet cherry trees. Mahaleb seedling rootstocks make trees $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of those on mazzard. Montmorency seedlings dwarf sweet cherry considerably. The Mongolian cherry (*P. fruticosa*) seedlings are worthy of trial for dwarfing of both sweet and sour cherry.

Peach. There is a great need for a new source of seedling rootstocks for peach. Rutgers Red Leaf, a selection from the Naturals, appears worth trying. St. Julian A and Brompton clonal plums are worthy of trial for peach on imperfectly drained soils.

Apricot. Apricot seedlings seem to provide the best rootstocks for apricot. Myrobalan is suggested as a rootstock only on poorly drained soils, with a compatible interstock of German Prune or Yuksa—an inter-specific hybrid of apricot and sand cherry.

—G. M. Kessler

Can Golden Delicious be Replaced?

In view of the growing importance of the Golden Delicious apple, a variety of this type which is truly russet resistant would prove extremely valuable. Sungold, discovered in New Jersey, and Mutsu, from Japan are reported to be of this type. Time will tell.