

Superior Quince Rootstocks for Pear from East Europe

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Selection work in Poland and in Czechoslovakia has uncovered some very interesting and promising quince rootstocks for the dwarfing of pear. These stocks are both hardier and more leaf spot resistant than the popular Quince A, the stock generally used for this purpose.

This work was started in the early 1930's in Poland when the need for hardier pear rootstocks was first appreciated. Orchards and nursery stoolbeds possessing quince shoots or rootstocks surviving the test winters of 1928-29, '34-'35, '36-'37, '39-'40, and '41-'42 were examined for exceptional individuals. Three stocks, known as S-1, S-2, and S-3, remained after 25 years of testing, and are available for commercial use.

S-1 is considered as the most valuable clone, and was selected from a single tree that had been grafted with a pear which subsequently had died. It is very similar to Quince A, but is a more prolific bearer in the stoolbed. It also retains its foliage better, and will unite fairly well with Bartlett.

S-2 was found in East Poland, now Russia, in a nursery stoolbed after the test winter of 1934-35. It is more vigorous than S-1, but does not produce as many shoots in the bed. S-2 plants are quite uniform and seem to be compatible with the varieties of pear that are compatible with Quince A and C.

S-3 developed from a rootstock that originally had been worked with Bartlett. This selection was made after the test winter of 1939-40 and is considered as the most cold resistant of

all three clones. It also gives the smallest number of shoots, and this detracts from its acceptability.

All three clones are more resistant to the leaf diseases that will seriously defoliate EM-A. The cold resistance character is indicated by 25 years of observation, in which there was not a single case of damage to roots that had been covered with soil.

Quince rootstock work in Czechoslovakia is less advanced than that in Poland, but extremely promising. This work started immediately following the cessation of World War II, with the selection of about 500 wild stock survivors of the severe winters of 1929, '40, '46, and '56. These have been culled to seven types, all of which are superior to the East Malling clones under Czechoslovakian conditions. Of the three selections performing the most satisfactorily, G/77 is considered to be the most vigorous and 21/57 is the most dwarfing. Clone 72/57 is intermediate.

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Old Sweet Cherry Varieties Survive Test of Time

An American Pomological Society Committee, chaired by W. T. Macoun, reported in 1905 that Windsor and Napoleon were the two most important sweet cherry varieties east of the Mississippi. It is worth knowing that 60 years later both varieties are still commercially important varieties, although the relative popularity of Windsor has decreased significantly.

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