



Limette

Newsletter Citrus Friends Europe

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Need of the use of certified scionwood

With the establishment of citrus industries in all major citrus growing countries in the world, new varieties were selected to follow the demands of the fruit market. Exchange of budwood was the common practice to establish new varieties in different locations and areas to follow the market. Most of the plantings world wide had been used SourOrange (*Citrus aurantium*) as major rootstock, so the new gathered and selected varieties were mostly been grafted onto this rootstock. In the beginning of the 20. century several decline and bud-union necrosis symptoms developed and were examined. Also many bark lesions, growth stunting reactions were discovered. But first with the discovery of the disastrous declining of sweet orange on SourOrange rootstocks in Brasil, Argentina, SouthAfrica and even in Spain a infectious pathogen was considered to be causing these problems and the virus found was named Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV), accordingly to the portuguese word for 'sad'. Detection of other pathogenes, like viroids of the Psorosis complex, the Xyloporosis complex and the Citrus Exocortis Virod (CEV was the cause of dwarfing trees on *Poncirus trifoliata* rootstock, so this was why trifoliata orange was so long considered to be a dwarfing rootstock!) were done like in the case of CTV, resulting in the research of methods to avoid the further use of infected budwood. This research had lead to many different Citrus budwood protection programs all over the world, to protect growers of the local Citrus industry from infectious pathogenes harmful to Citrus. This can and should also be adopted for home owners and their privat exchange of scion-

wood, which can be easily be harmful to private collections as well as to the Citrus industrie in their country. Because most of the diseases can be spread also by natural vectors like aphids and fruit flies, as well as with cutting and pruning tools.

Indexing of Citrus Scion-Wood Sources

With the establishment of Citrus Scion-wood protection programs world wide several methods of securing the quality and provide of disease free scion wood were build up. So in Spain were CTV, as in most other countries, was not possible to eradicate, the further use of SourOrange was prohibited by law with only a few exceptions. Also a regular indexing of Scion wood sources is scheduled, to avoid further infections. Such indexing schemes were established in nearly all Citrus countries world wide, providing the Citrus industry, the citrus growers and the home owners as well with reputable budwood from indexed, disease free and genetical true to variety propagation material.

In the most citrus growing countries this indexing is done in the time when natural spreading vectors are inactive and evenly the cut of scion wood is only done short after the indexing process. Only recommend and certified laboratories with the recommend equipment are allowed to index those scion wood source trees. Indexed scion wood sources were in most countries registered at a central office, which is often managed by the local Ministry or Department of Agriculture. So only scion wood from indexed, disease free trees is used to propagate further trees for the growers. In some countries an indexing of the propagated trees is recommended or

scheduled to secure the quality standard of further plantations. Expensive fines and loose of propagation licenses are the results for growers and nursery-men who break those rules and get in conflict with their local plant protection inspectors.

Recommendation of the use of indexed scion-wood

Well, as mentioned above, the spread of diseases harmful to Citrus should and must be avoided. So the often common practise to cut scion wood in the groves for home use cannot be recommended. Many orchards are infected with several diseases and most of the trees planted are symptomless, because of favourable rootstock-scion combinations. Only the use of indexed scion-wood, obtained from reputable Nurseries and plant protection services provide growers and home owners as well with recommendable propagation material of desired quality and minimise the harmful spread of diseases. Obtaining such quality propagation material is often more expensive than self cut propagation material in the grove, but in the fact of the punishments for spreading diseases this small charge is regardless. Evenly a tree propagated from such certificated and indexed scion wood is seldom infected later with harmful diseases, especially in areas where natural spreading vectors are not present. So in cases of later sufferings or declining problems in 95% a infection with disease pathogenes can be ruled out. Also the use of disease free and indexed propagation material in areas with the absence of natural disease spreading vectors never restricts the use of susceptible rootstocks or susceptible scion varieties. This provides the grower as well as home owners with favourable conditions of establishing large collections on long proven rootstock-scion combinations, which often in the citrus industry plantations must be avoided, resulting often in the use of poor stock-scion combinations, smaller or less quality fruits.

Summons

Please help to protect the Citrus trees world

wide and use only certificated propagation material. Avoid material of unknown or suspicious origin, even if the variety is of great demand. Places from where certificated budwood can be obtained, even in and for small scales should send the editors of the Limette informations, to spread this information. Demand of such sources to increase collections and to provide all Citrus Friends with self propagatable certificated scion varieties is high, so help is required.

Club News

Accordingly to the high demand of communication between the growers, collectors and home owners world wide, the Citrus Friends Europe have established a Citrus Forum (Message Board). To use the Forum only an internet access is required. No e-Mail address is needed, so access to this board can be taken from every public internet station. The message board is located on a german server, but the operation is kept so easy the even english spoken humans should be able to make use of it. We would be glad to hear more from citrus growers organised in the Citrus Friends Europe as even from all other Citrus interested people world wide. The message board is located at:

<http://www.f5.parsimony.net/foum5757>