SUCCESS ROOTING AVOCADO CUTTINGS

Tom Wood
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Abstract. There is a need for Avocado rootstocks resistant to Phytophthora cinamomoni and other related soil problems. This was discussed in a paper by A. H. Krezdorn, D. Marte, and R. J. Marte, IFAS, University of Florida. Not only is there a demand for rootstocks resistant to Phytophthora cinamomoni, but also for rootstocks that produce cold-hardy cultivars. Considerable progress in the rooting of stem cuttings of cultivars that root slowly has been achieved; also cuttings from juvenile material of cultivars that rarely rooted have now been rooted by judicious combinations of bottom heat and growth regulators. Findings point towards experimentation as to whether or not a good cultivator can be grown and used as a stock for cuttings, through which time alone can determine.

WIND SCAR CONTROL BY WIND SPEED REDUCTION THROUGH THE USE OF BARRIERS

George W. Mann
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Abstract. Wind scar blomish is a severe problem of the citrus industry internationally. Increased study of wind breaks and wind scar damage has resulted in suggested methods of reducing damage. The reduction of wind scar damage is of great importance to the grower of fresh fruit varieties. Experimental evidence indicates both fruit sizes and fruit yields can be improved by controlling wind speeds within a planting.

PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

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Abstract. Over the past 4 years, Dr. C. W. McCoy has been conducting an experiment based on strategical pest controls of Valencia oranges. His paper on this was both interesting and educational. Three types of strategic controls were attempted on 3 ‘Valencia’ blocks located in the Ridge area. The 3 controls were: (1) no control; (2) sulfur, and (3) integrated, which consisted of biological, cultural and chemical methods in combination.

Insect populations measured were rust mite, scales and minor pests wherever populations were high enough to be monitored. Hirsutella populations were also monitored. In the no control block, yields were as good as those under traditional control although external quality was poor and greasy spot was severe. Sulfur used alone was harmful to the natural predators. In the integrated control plot, no control of rust mite was necessary for two years, also Hirsutella was higher than in the traditional plot. No control was required for spider mites, scale insects, whitefly and mealy bugs during the entire four years.

Their findings substantiate those of Whiteside. A reduced spray program is acceptable and economical for concentrate plant production where high external quality is of little value.

NEW INSIGHTS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Sandra Ferro
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Winter Haven

Abstract. As a Brazilian student, it was an honor to be invited to attend the Society’s Annual Meeting. It was an unique experience for one looking forward to a career in landscape architecture.

Among the many papers, two were of special interest; “Dune stabilization and revegetation” and “Grasses for coastal dune areas.” They dealt with what has become a very serious problem for both our countries. Due to the great development along the coasts we are faced with the ecological break-up of our coastal environments.

The paper on “Use of native trees and plants” was also of great interest and “My love affair with a staghorn fern” led to my visiting Mrs. Spear’s collection. Dr. Knauss’s paper on partial tissue culture for ferns was so interesting that I am hoping to be able to visit the Agricultural Research Center at Apopka to learn more about this new technique.
THE CONTROL OF LANTANA

Bill Graves
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Abstract. Lantana which has been introduced all over the world as an ornamental is now becoming a serious pest in Florida citrus groves, especially the Indian River area. The two controls being researched are biological and herbicidal. Work in Hawaii and Australia shows that a number of host-specific insects are available for use in the biological control. However, efforts to introduce some of these insects are opposed by nursemen who consider it a valuable plant. Lantana is tolerant to presently registered herbicides which eliminate competitive weeds. In field trials, excellent control of lantana was obtained with Roundup and Bay Met. Less control was achieved with other herbicides such as Silvex, R-2491, DPX-1108 (Krenite), and Sumitol. The researchers indicated that hopefully in the future an integrated control will be available which will include an effective herbicide working along with an acceptable biological control.

THE "HORT SOCIETY": INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

Leslie E. Daniels
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Gainesville

Abstract. Being a newcomer to the field of Horticulture I found the FSHS meetings an invaluable opportunity to become acquainted with the goals and objectives of this industry in Florida. Evidence of progress of the Horticultural Sciences seemed to be inherent in all the meetings and aided in my understanding of some of the problems that this industry faces. In addition, this orientation proved useful to the formulation of my own objectives and goals as a student.

OUTSTANDING PAPERS IN ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Virginia Paskey
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Winter Haven

Abstract. As a student interested in horticulture, I found some of the papers to be really interesting. In particular, "My love affair with a staghorn fern" by Elaine Spear was outstanding and of particular interest to one interested in all types of ferns. J. P. Biebel's paper "Regreening of plants after cold weather" was particularly helpful in view of this winter's abnormally cold weather.

HELPFUL PAPERS ON CITRUS PRODUCTION

Miles Collier
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Abstract. To one who is not only a student, but also a citrus grower and manager, the FSHS Annual Meeting proved very helpful and informative. Of particular interest to me were the papers on citrus pest control and irrigation. Papers on limiting windscar were also most interesting.

RESEARCH ON ORNAMENTAL NURSERIES

Debbie McEntyre
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Abstract. As a student majoring in Ornamental Horticulture and hoping for a career in this area, I found the FSHS Annual Meeting very helpful and meaningful. Not only did I gain useful knowledge from the papers that were presented, but also from the many people with whom I had the opportunity to talk. Many of the papers presented interested me, specifically "Trends in Florida Foliage Nursery Costs and Returns" by D. L. Gunter, and "Ornamental Nurseries—Dade County's Growth Industry" by J. F. McGuire. These papers gave me an idea of how much the nursery industry is growing. I was impressed with many of the papers because of the amount of research and knowledge that went into them.

Everyone can gain something from attending a convention of this nature, where people share mutual interests and knowledge. It is a perfect opportunity to learn the changes and new knowledge in horticultural practices.

CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INFORMATION

DONALD WALKER, JR.
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Abstract. New and accurate information concerning available citrus rootstocks is always welcomed. Dr. W. S. Castle pointed out that a grower requiring Milam rootstock as a burrowing nematode barrier can also expect a good performance in many other horticultural areas. Dr. G. Yelenosky reported on a test of the cold hardiness of young 'Valencia' trees budded on various rootstocks, exposed to hardening-off conditions and then subjected to freezing conditions. The trees budded to Swingle citrumelo fared the best. There was some overlap with Rusk and sour orange, with the 3 comparing favorably. Rough lemon, as expected, appeared at the bottom of the list.

Dr. Yelenosky pointed out that cold hardening does not always take place in nature, however when citrus trees are hardened-off, their cold tolerance is greatly improved.

TISSUE CULTURE OF ORNAMENTALS

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Abstract. Many informative papers were presented but of most interest to me were the 3 on tissue culture. Two were by Dr. J. F. Knauss of IFAS Agricultural Research Center, Apopka and one was by R. E. Strode of Oglesby Nursery, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The talk by Randy Strode concerned the production of daylilies through tissue culture methods. I found that his procedures for commercial tissue culturing were much the same as the ones we use at Oakdell. The talk by Jim Knauss on producing ferns with partial tissue culture methods was a really exciting idea and I have been to the Research Center since the meeting to see some of the ferns which have been produced using this method. The paper on Dieffenbachia was the most valuable to me because of the concern with the bacterium Erwinia which infects massive numbers of dieffenbachia at Oakdell. Erwinia can be eliminated from Dieffenbachia by growing through tissue culture and then indexing for pathogens by using different specific media.