EVALUATION OF CLONAL MEXICAN AND WEST INDIAN AVOCADO ROOTSTOCKS FOR TOLERANCE-RESISTANCE TO *PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMOMI* RANDS UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

A-147

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In this work vegetatively propagated rootstock selections are evaluated for their root rot tolerance. Eleven avocado rootstocks, which had proved to be promising in previous trials, were chosen for the present study: ten West Indians and one Guatemalan x West Indian hybrid, of diverse origin (mainly from Canary Islands, Spain, and cv Maoz from Israel). These are compared to the commercial Mexican rootstocks Duke 7 and Thomas, known for their tolerance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands (provided by Brokaw Nursery, California). Clonal propagation of all rootstock material was carried out by the modified Frölich and Platt method.

The trial was established in 1999 at the I.C.I.A. (Tenerife, Canary Islands) on a plot highly infested for the last 30 years, using a randomized block design with 12 replications. Rootstock tolerance to *P. cinnamomi* under field conditions was established with a yearly global evaluation of the percentage of surviving plants, plant height, top and trunk perimeter, and disease severity index, using a visual scale of 0-5 (where 0=healthy, and 5=dead).

The rootstocks were ordered from the healthiest to the most diseased according to their disease severity index: SS3-1; Maoz H-5 6B; Gema; BH-2; La Planta 2-4; La Planta 2-8; H-15A (9,2); H-15A (6,13); H-15G(4,28); H-15A(2,1); Duke 7; Thomas; La Planta 1A.