SELECTION PROGRAM FOR AVOCADO ROOTSTOCKS TOLERANT TO WHITE ROT CAUSED BY *Rosellinia necatrix* IN SOUTHERN SPAIN (1995-2007)

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This paper shows the current results of the selection program for avocado rootstocks tolerant to white rot caused by *Rosellinia necatrix*, one of the most important diseases affecting this crop in Southern Spain. Tests for material selection have been carried out through artificial inoculations of the pathogen on seedlings from first-inoculation seeds as well as on preselected plants, multiplied *in vitro* or through conventional semi-woody cutting in second inoculation.

During this four-year period (2003-2006), 2,612 seedlings from seeds of local trees acclimatized to the zone have been subject to first inoculation. Pre-selected seedlings together with selections from previous years are being propagated to undergo a second inoculation, after their vegetative multiplication. Surviving selections are being placed on a plot artificially infested with *R. necatrix* for evaluation prior to a final one in commercial orchards infested by the pathogen. At the same time, propagation of trees selected from infested areas (escape trees) is being carried out to evaluate its performance following artificial inoculations with the pathogen.