



Rootstocks currently being evaluated and propagated by Apfip Ltd and its Licensees.

For some time now APFIP has been focusing on the introduction of new apple and pear rootstocks, as well the introduction of new and improved clones of rootstock already being used in our orchards. Virus certification (testing negative for known viruses) has been a part of the process as well.

APFIP currently has a material repository in southern Tasmania this repository holds all the original source material. The process for material entering this repository starts with the importation of material or the selection of current rootstocks from within Australia; material imported into Australia is placed into quarantine for the prescribed period and tested for the presence of exotic pests and diseases. During this time the material is also indexed for the viruses of economic significance if a positive result is found for any of the following viruses, Apple Chlorotic Leaf Spot Virus (ACLSV), Apple Stem Pitting Virus (ASPV), Apple Stem Grooving Virus (ASGV) and Apple Mosaic Virus (AMV) the material then enters the heat treatment process to eradicate these viruses. Material selected within Australia only is required to be virus indexed and if found positive it then enters the same heat treatment process.

Once the material has been deemed certified (tested negative for specified viruses) it is then planted into the APFIP repository for continued evaluation and propagation. APFIP has found over time that one of the key criteria in selecting a new rootstock must be the ease of propagation and ability to grow roots on mother beds, nurseries aren't unlike apple growers good quality yield from their products is essential.

APFIP also holds a number of apple and pear cultivars in the repository, this material undergoes the same certification process as the rootstocks, and they are maintained as a source of propagation material for the APFIP certification trade mark licensees.

APFIP currently has in the repository 3 quince rootstocks for pears (A, BA29 & C). Quince A is in the pear rootstock trial in the Goulburn Valley and showing promising results. Reduced vigour and the ability to yield much larger crops of good quality fruit seem to be its major attributes.

The repository has a range of NAKB® rootstocks M9T337, M26sel clean shank and MM111 all imported from Holland. APFIP is the exclusive licensee for the NAKB® trade mark in Australia.

A number of industry standard rootstock varieties are also virus certified and held for a source of propagation material. APFIP has a range of stocks from the Czech Republic these are of M26 size range and are very cold tolerant, work continues on these stocks for suitability in our industry.

Another range held is the JM series rootstocks from Japan with 1 and 7 looking very interesting they are woolly apple aphid resistant are in the M26-M9 vigour range and propagate from cuttings, which would be an advantage as large numbers could be propagated quickly. APFIP is the exclusive licensee for the JM rootstocks in Australia.

APFIP is currently working with its licensees on a proposal to develop these rootstocks for the industry.