FRUIT AND NUT CROPS RESEARCH IN TEXAS, 1987

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SUBJECT TOPIC: West Texas Educational Program in Commercial Fruit Production

INVESTIGATOR(S): L. Austin Stockton - TAEX, Fort Stockton

CROP(S):
1. Grapes
2. Apples

ABSTRACT:

Objectives:

1. Evaluate grape rootstocks tolerant of alkaline soil induced iron chlorosis.
2. Evaluate grape rootstocks tolerant of cotton root rot.
3. Introduce chemical weed control practices to west Texas orchards and vineyards.
4. Conduct an ongoing educational program in commercial fruit management.

General Approach:

1. Continue to collect, propagate and evaluate grape rootstocks of apparent potential for test plantings on alkaline, cotton root rot infested soils.
2. Continue work with commercial apple and grape producers in the form of result demonstrations that document efficacies of preemergent herbicides.
3. Maintain professional contact with fruit producers through orchard and vineyard visits, grower meetings, special information letters and result demonstrations initiation and evaluation.

Findings:

1. Grape rootstock test planting made on shallow alkaline soil with a history of root rot. Six propagules and/or named rootstock cultivars introduced to the test to date. Vitis mustangensis selection from Zavalla County has some useful attributes.
2. Result demonstrations in 12 west Texas counties and 17 orchard vineyards have shown (3 years of evaluation) that preemergent herbicides (Solicam, Surflan) will economically reduce seasonal annual weeds in commercial

fruit operations. Fall applications of Solicam have had the greatest effect on the largest number of annual weed species.