

2002 NC-140 Peach Rootstock Trial: Several New Dwarfing Rootstocks Compared to Lovell

Wesley R. Autio and James Krupa

Department of Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts

As part of the 2002 NC-140 Peach Rootstock Trial, a planting of Redhaven on eight rootstocks was established at Clarkdale Fruit Farm (Deerfield, Massachusetts) in 2002. The planting included eight replications in a randomized-complete-block design. This trial was planted in several locations throughout the United States and Canada, but only Massachusetts data are reported here. Means from 2004 (3rd growing season) are included in Table 1. Please note that nearly all flower buds were killed during the winter of 2004, resulting in a complete crop failure.

Largest trees were on Cadaman and Lovell, significantly larger than trees on the other rootstocks. Since Lovell is considered to produce a standard-sized tree, all other rootstocks resulted in a considerable degree of dwarfing. Rootstock did not affect root suckering.

The potential for dwarfing rootstocks presents interesting management opportunities for peaches. Pruning and tree vigor could be handled quite differently than it is now. High-density plantings may allow for significantly earlier and greater yields as well. It will be interesting to follow the development of these trees.

Table 1. Trunk cross-sectional area and cumulative suckering in 2004 of Redhaven trees on several rootstocks in the Massachusetts planting of the 2002 NC-140 Peach Rootstock Trial.^z

Rootstock	Trunk cross-sectional area (cm ²)	Root suckers (no./tree, 2002-04)
Adesto 101	23.3 b	0.1 a
Cadaman	40.4 a	0.0 a
Lovell	38.3 a	0.0 a
MRS 2/5	26.1 b	0.1 a
Penta	21.1 bc	0.1 a
Pumiselect	18.4 bc	0.4 a
VSV-1	13.9 c	0.1 a
VVA-1	20.0 bc	0.4 a

^z Means within columns not followed by the same letter are different at odds of 19 to 1.

