

Objectives and Rationale

The aim of this project is to develop a best practice guideline for the construction of dwarfing rootstock support structures to assure that the benefits of this production methodology is not undermined by losses and damages caused by inferior tree support structures.

Methods

Visit areas where successes and failures with support structures have occurred. Conduct a desktop support structure design to prevent further failures. Compare these findings to the limitations of the tree and identify gaps that need to be addressed. Compile the findings into a report.

Key Results

There is very little information available regarding tree and trellis compatibility. The amount of support required for each variation in rootstock combination need to be investigated in more detail.

Key Conclusion of Discussion

The final report submission date has surpassed. The reason for this was that a lot of information has been discovered at a late stage of the project which had to be verified. The result of this was that additional research was required before a comprehensive best standard document can be compiled. This information has been obtained and the final report is being compiled.

Take Home message for Industry

The investment cost to permanently secure a support structure to prevent crop damage outweighs the maintenance effort and loss of income due to failures during production.