

Field Meeting

Sweet Cherry Rootstock and Training System Trial

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

9:00 am to 10:30 am

12845 River Road, Courtland, CA 95615

Come and learn about the early stages of this trial, which is part of a National Cooperator rootstock project led by Dr. Greg Lang of Michigan State University. The local trial is being conducted by UC Farm Advisors Joe Grant and Chuck Ingels and grower Robert Arceo.

The trial was established in 2010 to compare four dwarfing rootstocks using three training systems:

| <u>Rootstock</u> | <u>Training System</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Gisela 3 | 1. Upright fruiting offshoots (UFO) |
| 2. Gisela 5 | 2. Tall spindle axe (TSA) |
| 3. Gisela 6 | 3. Kym Green bush (KGB) |
| 4. Gisela 12 (UFO only) | |

The scion variety in the trial is Benton. This is the first year of fruit production and the training systems vary greatly in their establishment inputs and early bearing habit. The trial has exposed both challenges and unique opportunities that can be expected but the jury is definitely still out on which rootstocks and training systems are most profitable. This meeting will focus on discussing rootstocks and demonstrating early training methods. The meeting is free of charge.

The trial location is Robert Arceo's home ranch on River Road about halfway between Courtland and Walnut Grove. Trees were planted in March 2010 using the variety Benton. Spacing between trees is 5 ft. and row spacing is 16 ft. (consistent with the rest of the orchard). A trellis was installed, with 4 wires spaced 2 ft. apart and the top wire at 10 ft. above ground.

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Joe

Joe Grant
Fruit & Nut Crops Advisor