
Early Economic Performance of Selected Rootstocks in Commercial Settings

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Citrus growers need information about the performance of different rootstocks grafted with ‘Valencia’ sweet orange scions in commercial field conditions to determine which rootstock to use (and which not to use) in the current endemic-HLB environment in Florida. In our study, we provide the first estimates obtained from side-by-side trials that compare the performance of rootstocks developed by the UF/IFAS and the USDA in three different locations.

The results proved that rootstocks can be a significant factor affecting yield and economic return. Moreover, rootstocks that yield returns (and revenue) sooner can be particularly valuable for growers to achieve breakeven (and profits) more quickly. The rootstocks that attained statistically positive differences in yield relative to the corresponding control included US-812 and US-942 in Lake Placid during two seasons and one season, respectively; rootstock

US-812 in Babson Park during one season; and rootstocks US-812 and US-942 in Felda during one season. The positive differences in performance attained by some of the evaluated rootstocks decreased in the last season of data collection. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the observed trend in performance will continue beyond the first few seasons.

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