

Early Economic Performance of Selected Rootstocks in Commercial Settings

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Effort Statement: The grant proposal consists of a large-scale field testing of new hybrid rootstock material for HLB tolerance in Florida and could, therefore, extend the analysis performed so far.

Summary: There is evidence that rootstock plays a major role in determining citrus tree health, tree size, fruit productivity, and fruit quality, including in HLB-affected groves. In our study, we provide the first estimates obtained from side-by-side trials that compare the performance of rootstocks developed by 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.

Take Home Message:

- Rootstocks with statistically positive differences in yield included:
 - » US-812 and US-942 in Lake Placid during two seasons.
 - » Rootstock US-812 in Babson Park during one season.
 - » Rootstocks US-812 and US-942 in Felda during one season.

Funding:

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