

APFIP activities update



Evaluation:

APFIP evaluation continues to still be a major part of our business, varieties are evaluated in 6 states at 7 sites. The number of varieties currently being evaluated totals 50 apple and 36 pears, the number of varieties completed evaluation totals 41 apple 13 pears.

There are a number of varieties on the evaluation database now with general access status full evaluation reports on these varieties can be viewed at apfip.com.au access to the evaluation database can be via the visitor login under evaluation.

Not all varieties that complete 7 years evaluation gain general access status due to confidentiality agreements with some variety suppliers.

The main focus with evaluation is to identify new varieties that perform well in Australia, but one of the key outcomes of this program has been to identify poor performing varieties prior to any commercialisation activities which have protected growers from any investment failure.

Certification:

Certification of plant material in the Australian apple and pear industry remains a high priority for APFIP.

APFIP has been working closely with its trade mark licensees to establish commercial production of certified dwarfing rootstocks. APFIP is the exclusive Australian licensee for the NAKB® M9T337 rootstock and its production has been licensed to APFIP certification trade mark licensees. Certification of varietal propagating material is critical to providing certified nursery trees to the Australian industry.

APFIP is working with its licensees to facilitate increased availability of certified commercial varieties, this process is ongoing. Commercial pressure from the nursery customers (growers) is now a key component of the certification process.

A certification database is currently being finalised, this database has been developed as a tool for the APFIP certification licensees to manage and control all of their certified material. The aim of the program is to have total traceability and virus indexing control of all certified material.

Quarantine:

Apfip has been actively identifying and importing into quarantine varieties that may have potential in our industry from overseas breeding programs. There were 7 apple varieties released from quarantine to APFIP in January 2011 to start the evaluation process, with a further 4 apple and 2 pears are to be released in late 2012. A new PBR protected quince rootstock has also been imported from Europe.

The future of the Knoxfield and Eastern Creek post entry plant quarantine stations has yet to be decided. The leases at these sites expire in the next couple of years and a new station or stations need to be established. APFIP has been involved in workshops conducted by AQIS on the future

requirements of the plant quarantine stations and understands that a proposal for new stations is now before the Federal Government. An effective pathway through quarantine for the entry of new apple and pear varieties from overseas is vital for our industry.

Repository:

APFIP still maintains a material repository in southern Tasmania, all the original mother plants are housed there for continued evaluation and virus indexing. APFIP is currently expanding this area as production allows, the main aim is to be able to supply our current and any new licensees with good numbers of certified stocks and budwood to help them get established.

APFIP Project:

The new project proposal for the period 2011-2016 is currently being developed, continuation of the current business goals will be the focus as well the inclusion of some new projects and activities.

Tree Procurement Service:

As previously reported APFIP has developed a Tree Procurement Service, this service is offered purely as a support package between the grower and nurseries helping both parties understand each other's requirements in the production and delivery of their nursery trees. We have developed a flyer which is currently at the printer, this will provide an outline of what is on offer; and will be available shortly. We urge growers and nurseries to take advantage of this service, anyone wishing to discuss this service can contact APFIP on 0408 503 528 or mark@apfip.com.au.

CGA & APAL Conference:

APFIP will be attending the 2011 conference in Adelaide this August, we have registered to have an exhibitor's booth at the HortExpo we will have a range of evaluation and certification material along with a variety display. At this stage we are hoping to have a couple of our variety suppliers there with us to showcase some of their material. We certainly look forward to catching up with industry and discussing any APFIP activities.



Horticulture Australia

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