

Project No.: 13K-3455-5664

Title: Commercial Production Methods for Bosc Pear

Reporting Period: 1998

Personnel:

- Gary Moulton, Scientific Assistant, WSU–Mount Vernon
- Jacqueline King, Technical Farm Laborer, WS–Mount Vernon
- Les Price, Service Worker, WSU–Mount Vernon

Accomplishments

An ongoing test planting of Bosc pear was continued, comparing productivity of selected rootstocks, training systems, and test pollinizer varieties, for information on the commercial potential. The 7-year trial will cover rootstock comparison of young trees and 3-4 years of harvest data from trees in production, plus comparison of two training systems for productivity, fruit quality and marketability. Trees of Bosc on Quince A and C are being used to compare a V-trellis versus a standard planting; establishment of these trees was delayed so they are not yet fruiting.

Overall yield in this planting was slightly below that of 1997, with some trees setting noticeably less fruit. On the trees of Bosc/Provence Quince yields were equal or slightly above those of 1997, but yields on Bosc/OHXF 217 were lower than at both planting densities. Yield of Conference/Quince C was also slightly higher (117%) than 1997, but for Concorde/Quince C yield was only about half (51%) of last year. Trees of Comice, which were not yet producing more than sample fruit in 1997, yielded heavily this year at 316 lbs/plot.

Trees of Conference and Concorde grafted on Quince C produced fruit in the first year after planting, and have continued to be productive. This encourages consideration of Quince stock that promotes early bearing and high productivity. Comparisons of Quince A and C on Bosc are delayed but should produce some fruit in 1999.

Trees of Concorde are being used in a fungicide spray trial to determine the effectiveness of Thiram as a preventive spray for storage rots. This work is funded by Source One.

Results

Yield data for all plots in production in 1998, taken at harvest, are shown in the tables included as Appendix A.

Publications

None.

Appendix

Table 1. Yield data for Bosc test plot, harvest 1998.

Cv./Rootstock	Spacing	No. of Trees	Total Yield	Lbs/Tree	Lbs/Plot
Bosc/Provence Quince	8'	6	189	31.5	189
Bosc/Provence Quince	4'	60	747	12.5	150
Bosc/OHXF 217	8'	30	557	23.2	139
Bosc/OHXF 217	4'	12	82	6.8	82
Concorde/Quince C	8'	24	498	41.5	125
Conference/Quince C	8'	24	1235	51.5	309
Comice/Quince A	8'	6	316	52.7	316
Starkrimson	8'	8	30	3.8	15