

How Does B.9 Stack Up Compared to M.9?

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In a previous article (pp. 22-25 in this issue), the various M.9 apple rootstock strains were compared. These were part of the 1994 NC-140 Apple Rootstock Trial, with Gala as the scion. Budagovsky 9 (B.9) was also part of that trial, planted in 1994 and maintained for 10 years.

In this brief article, the data for B.9, M.9 Fleuren 56 (the smallest M.9 strain in the trial), and M.9 Pajam 2 (the largest M.9 strain in the trial) are presented (Figure 1). After 10 growing seasons, trees on B.9 were comparable in size to those on M.9 Fleuren 56 but

significantly smaller than those on M.9 Pajam 2. Root suckering from B.9 was lower than from M.9 Pajam 2. Yield of trees on B.9 was comparable to trees on M.9 Fleuren 56 and lower than trees on M.9 Pajam 2. B.9 resulted in yield efficiency and fruit size similar to the two M.9 strains.

Over the 10 years of this trial, B.9 performed well, producing a small M.9-sized tree with similar yield characteristics. We now have 20 years experience with B.9 and have no negative aspects of the rootstock to report.

