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RESULTS OF FRENCH APRICOT ROOTSTOCK TRIALS

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In France, apricot trees are mainly grown on peach seedlings (Montclar®Chanturge, GF305, and Rubira) and apricot seedlings (Manicot GF1236) in the light soils, and rather on the clonal plum hybrid rootstock Torinel®Avifel, on myrobalan seedlings or clonal myrobalan rootstock (P1254) in heavy clay soils. The objectives of the apricot rootstock breeding program of the INRA Avignon are to develop new rootstocks more vigorous than Torinel®Avifel in heavy soils and more tolerant to bacterial canker and to nematodes. INRA released in 1986 Ishtara®Ferciana, a diploid plum*peach hybrid, in 1989 Torinel®Avifel a *Prunus domestica* hybrid and this year two new clonal rootstocks, Myrotop®GF2980 (*Prunus cerasifera*) and Toriplus®MP8 (*Prunus domestica*) are proposed to be released. The results of the behavior of these rootstocks in the French apricot rootstocks trials coordinated by the CTIFL, in the INRA orchards are presented. In the two apricot CTIFL trials, one planted in 1994 and the other planted in 2007, Ishtara®Ferciana gave a better cumulated yield than Torinel®Avifel. In the INRA orchards and the 2007 CTIFL orchard, Myrotop®GF2980 showed a higher vigor than Ishtara®, Toriplus®, Torinel®, and a lower susceptibility to the bacterial canker.

New INRA genotypes have been preselected to be introduced in the CTIFL trials in the next year. These new selected clonal rootstocks are peach*plum hybrids resistant to nematodes and bacterial canker, peach*dauriana hybrids very vigorous, almond*peach*plum hybrids with high vigor and resistance to nematodes.

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