



Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.

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Ronald Perry
A338C Plant & Soil Sciences building
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1325

Dear Dr. Perry:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, I am very pleased to support the nomination of NC-140 for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

NC-140 is the premier multistate project, involving tree fruit researchers from throughout North America. Their collective wisdom has pulled together a process that enhances the sustainability (both environmental and economic) of fruit farms. Orchardists of Massachusetts have benefited for nearly 40 years from NC-140 output. NC-140 is the source of nearly all research-based tree-fruit rootstock information on which we rely.

NC-140 has developed a reputation throughout the world which allows them to acquire tree-fruit rootstock material from all breeding programs. Their approach to evaluation puts potentially valuable rootstocks in many testing locations with varied climactic and soil conditions, allowing for rapid assessment. This system reduces the amount of time for evaluation greatly and significantly reduces our financial risk. When NC-140 suggests that a rootstock performs well, we know as farmers that it will perform well.

NC-140 research allowed us to adopt dwarfing Malling rootstocks early on, and it has since paved the way for new rootstocks from many breeding programs, e.g., Geneva, Budagovsky, Vineland, and Gisela. We applaud the work of NC-140, and we cannot imagine that any other multistate project is as worth for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

Respectfully,

Al Rose