



**NEW JERSEY
STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**
176 Airport Road, Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840

Dr. Jeff Jacobsen
North Central Regional Association, Director
446 west Circle, room 408
Justin S. Morrill hall of Agriculture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Dr. Jacobson;

I am writing to you on behalf of the NJ State Horticultural Society and the three hundred plus tree fruit growers farming in New Jersey. We represent the tree fruit industry in New Jersey that has directly benefitted from the work of NC-140.

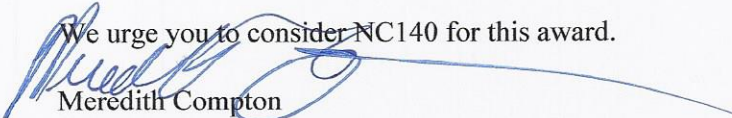
This is a letter of support for the nomination of the project *NC-140 Improving economic and environmental sustainability in tree fruit production through changes in rootstock use for the 2015 ESS Award for Excellence in Multistate Research.*

Some of the highlights and impacts of NC140 in NJ include the following:

1. NC-140 trials in NJ have been the primary source of research based recommendations in NJ. Guidance in the Rutgers Commercial Tree Fruit Production Guide comes directly from NC 140 trial results in NJ and pooled knowledge from the other NC140 cooperators. In addition the NC140 trials located at Rutgers Snyder Farm have been toured by hundreds of growers on multiple occasions in order to make decisions on what to plant on their own farms.
2. NC140 has given the ability of NJ growers to see first hand rootstock materials from around the world.
3. The systematic approach of NC140 across multiple states has shortened the time of rootstock evaluation from 40 to ten years.
4. B9 apple rootstock from Russia, first trialed by NC140 in the US and NJ has given our growers the first fire blight resistant rootstock for use. It is been commercial adopted and widely planted in NJ based on the observations by growers of the NC140 plots.
5. Peach, cherry and apple rootstock trials have all been done in NJ and have greatly impacted the tree fruit industry in NJ in a positive way. Numerous NJ orchards have now planted extensive dwarf cherry plantings for direct sales on Gisela Rootstocks trialed by NC140 at Rutgers in NJ.
6. Since 1992 over 99% of the new apple trees planted in NJ have been on dwarfing rootstock.
7. The financial benefit to NJ fruit growers from earlier returns, greater yield, and higher fruit quality was \$2,000,000 over the past 10 year period

Please note that the NJ State Horticultural Society has provided extensive financial support to NC140 since 1992. We have provided \$3000-\$5000 a year to establish and Maintain NC140 trial plots at Rutgers Snyder Farm by Win Cowgill, our NJ State leader for NC-140.

We urge you to consider NC140 for this award.


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