



NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
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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. Jacobsen,

It has come to our attention that the membership of the NC-140 Regional Rootstock Research Project is submitting an application for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award. This letter is to support their application by highlighting some of the benefits that this project has provided for our industry.

NC-140 plantings of IdaRed, Red Fuji, Red Delicious, Royal Gala, Honeycrisp, pear and sweet cherry have been located at the Kentville Agricultural Centre since 1983. These have been showcased during orchard tours to highlight the rootstocks which perform the best in our region and to inform our growers of new rootstocks not yet commercially available. When NC-140 obtained the dwarfing apple rootstock B.9 from Russia, we learned that it imparted fire blight resistance to the scion and B.9 is now widely planted in some regions of North America. NC-140 has been important for evaluating the Gisela cherry rootstock series, which has led to the development of high density cherry training systems. One of these plantings is located in Kentville and has allowed our industry to observe first-hand the pros and cons of each rootstock and training system.

The NC-140 representatives from Nova Scotia have freely shared their results with our industry at grower meetings, through newsletters and field demonstrations. We support the NC-140 research that is currently underway and look forward to participation in future trials involving scab resistant Modi (apple) and cold hardy Quince.

As the NC-140 project includes multiple research sites across Canada and throughout the US, a complete picture of rootstock performance can be obtained. Coordination and continuation of this project requires extensive time and energy which our industry feels should be recognized with this award.

Sincerely,

Robert Peill
President, Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association