

WILLOW DRIVE NURSERY, INC.

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December 23, 2014

Jeff Jacobsen, PhD
North Central Regional Association, Director
446 West Circle, Room 408
Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Dear Dr. Jacobsen,

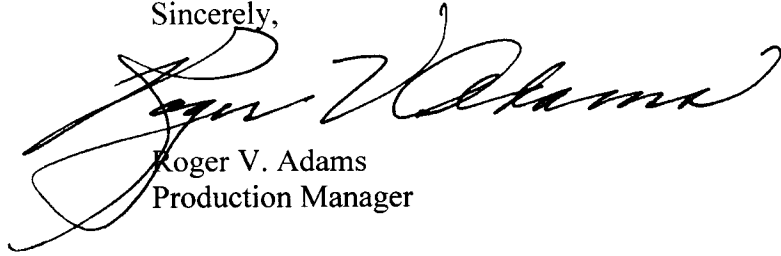
This letter is in regards to the Excellence in Multi-State Research Award as it applies to the NC-140 research collaboration. Willow Drive Nursery has participated through the IFTA on this research collaboration in growing trees and in helping to support the NC-140 trials in both Apples and Cherries, for all of North America. This research and knowledge benefits the entire world through the dissemination of the knowledge gained in rootstock research. It is through this consortium of researchers that new introductions are evaluated against known rootstocks. Each year, the IFTA shares this information as it is gained at their annual International meetings. This research is critical for the fruit tree industry and is the center of learning for new introductions of rootstocks as well as research into the standards that they are compared to. Without this rootstock trial program, the industry would be years behind in understanding the benefits and problems with any and all rootstocks used in the commercial industry. Knowledge gained through this research is utilized in the worldwide breeding programs to introduce new and more beneficial rootstocks.

Along with the introduction and research into rootstocks has been the research into systems for training and commercializing varieties using those rootstocks. The intention is to find out what rootstocks and subsequent training systems are best utilized to maximize profits to the grower under different circumstances throughout North America. What may be good for one grower scenario may not be suitable to another. The NC-140 program does the research years in advance and can share that information to the grower, thus eliminating years of costly trial and error.

Cherries have also been evaluated and continue to be worked with to also give cherry growers the best possible knowledge in advance of their future plantings. The Gisela rootstock trials have been very beneficial for this use.

rootstock trials. Millions of dollars of production are established on this research. We continue to supply to the fruit tree industry many rootstocks that are part of the rootstock trials. We greatly urge the support of the NC-140 trials and feel they are critical as well as the least costly research done to benefit the entire world. Thank you for your attention to this consideration for further research support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger V. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Roger V. Adams
Production Manager