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Production of certified stone fruit propagation material in Greece

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Efforts to produce healthy fruit-tree propagating material started in Greece in the mid-1960s based on the law 4035/15.2.1960. At that time, the Greek Ministry of Agriculture established the first mother-tree plantations which were inspected by the Plant Protection Institute of Thessaloniki. In 1985, the initial law was replaced by law 1564/1985, which determined the procedures to be used in controlling the production and trade of plant propagating material.

The current situation regarding stone-fruit trees is as follows:

Prebasic material is maintained in a screenhouse at the Pomology Institute of Naoussa. The material is checked for trueness-to-type and tested for virus or virus-like diseases by biological and serological (ELISA) indexing.

Basic material is provided by the University of Thessaloniki, the Pomology Institute of Naoussa, the Pomology Station of Lagadas, Thessaloniki and the Pomology Station of Servia, Kozani. Mother plants are kept in the open fields and visually inspected at least once a year.

Certified material is produced by four state farms and private nurseries; all of them are provided with basic material. Mother blocks are kept in open fields and are visually inspected once a year.

Most nurseries (80%) produce CAC (*Conformitas Agricolae Communitatis*) material, which must be declared and visually checked by State services during the growing period. Recently most peach rootstocks were issued from "in vitro" culture laboratories.