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# Stone fruit tree certification programme in Turkey

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Certification of stone-fruit trees (SFT) in Turkey, within the certification activities for fruit trees, grapevine, and citrus, fall under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The General Directorates of Plant Protection and Control, and of Agricultural Production and Improvement were charged with the certification of SFTs.

Forty-eight state nurseries located in regional provinces were producing fruit nursery plants, eleven were stock nurseries, and more than a hundred private nurseries. These nurseries were only allowed to produce registered varieties as agreed by the Ministry. Interior quarantine regulations and certification standards shall be enforced by the Plant Protection Divisions of Agricultural Directorates located in every province.

The registered private nurseries must be checked twice a year for their eligibility and all nursery plants examined by experts. At the end of the examination, the nursery plants must be labelled, before distribution to growers. The label states the species or variety name, quality, and amount of the nursery plant.

From the point of view of plant protection, nursery productions must be thoroughly inspected. Many pests (disease agents, insects, mites, etc.) are very harmful and easily transmitted to healthy plants by grafting of infected material. Among the pathogens, virus and virus-like agents must be taken into consideration with great care. On the other hand, nursery plants may be examined by rapid and sensitive methods for the presence of virus and virus-like diseases. Until 1997, *Prunus* necrotic ring spot, prune dwarf, plum pox, cherry

leaf roll, raspberry ring spot and peach mosaic were primary virus diseases taken into consideration for the certification of nursery plants. The Ministry of Agriculture tried to strengthen the laboratory facilities and technical staff to examine nursery plants in terms of virus and virus-like diseases in the certification programme.

A new regulation for Fruit Tree Species/Rootstock Block Plant Production Material and Nursery Plant Certification was promulgated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1997. This regulation contains the following headings:

- purpose, legislation, definitions;
- registration procedures for fruit tree and rootstock species;
- general principles about certified nurseries, qualifications and application for production and certificates;
- testing techniques, evaluation of reports and plant protection and horticultural standards of fruit/grapevine species/rootstock blocks and nursery plants; plant protection articles related to certification.

The following virus diseases were listed in the recent certification scheme for stone fruits:

- apple chlorotic leaf spot virus (ACLSV);
- Prunus necrotic ring spot virus (PNRSV);
- peach mosaic virus (PMV);
- plum pox virus (PPV);
- cherry leaf roll virus (CLRv);
- raspberry ring spot virus (RRSV);
- prune dwarf virus (PDV).

Apart from the above mentioned viruses, some fungal and bacterial agents were also included in the relevant list.