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Cropping efficiency in Almond: a rootstock trial under irrigation

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ABSTRACT-RESUME

Un essai porte-greffe avec la variété Marcona, à Saragosse, a montré la supériorité du Pêcher. Amandier Inra GF 677, en ce qui concerne la vigueur et la production, suivi du Pêcher et du Brompton. Il n'y a pas eu d'effet sur la grosseur moyenne des fruits.

A study of the rootstock effects on fruit set, cropping and mean fruit size of the almond cv. Marcona was carried out in a plot under gravity irrigation during two years.

Five rootstocks were examined:

Myrobolan AD 605
Brompton
Peach seedling

Pollizo de Murcia P. de Soto 101 (local plum selection of similar vigour to peach)
Almond x peach GF 677 (french hybrid selection).

The design included five randomized blocks of which records of five trees per rootstock were taken. All trees had been lightly pruned and were growing normally in their 4th and 5th year after planting. Data on trunk girth, productivity and mean fruit size are shown in the Table:

	Girth G (cm)		n./G ²		g/G ²		Fruit size (g)	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Myrobolan AD 605	23,7	26,9	0,35	3,43	4,83	5,86		
Brompton	29,4	32,2	0,49	5,38	5,56	6,39		
Pesch	31,1	36,5	0,73	4,78	5,54	6,28		
Plum P. Soto 101	33,5	37,4	0,66	3,61	5,14	6,35		
GF 677	38,8	42,5	0,85	6,60	4,98	6,49		
LSD between means	8,8*	3,9**	0,19***	1,88*	NS	NS		

There was a general trend for larger fruits to be induced with increasing number of fruits/tree, which is early established by the initial fruit set, as drop was minimum and uniform for all root-stocks.

In both years trees on the most vigorous hybrid GF 677 gave the highest cropping efficiency, followed by those on Peach and Brompton.

Rootstock effect on mean fruit size was inconsistent, perhaps owing to limited replication of the trial, and although Brompton and GF 677 induced the biggest fruit sizes in 1978, this character does not appear to be directly influenced by the rootstock used with almond cultivars.