

MAIA Apples

Selection Basics

February 5, 2009

Initial Selection Process from Seedling Rows

1. At time of initial tree selection, **mark the selected tree(s) with bright RED latex paint on trunk of tree at least 5' from ground level.** If you think it deserves to be propagated, a permanent type label (metal tag, for example) should be attached to the tree with an identity defined in Item No. 4. Make a written record of its identity and **reason for selecting it.**
2. MAIA currently has seedling blocks at the following locations.
 - A. Eckert Orchard (Jim Eckert), Belleville, IL
 - B. Lynd Fruit Farm (Mitch Lynd), Johnstown, OH
 - C. Sunnyhill Fruit Farm (Greg Bachman) Carroll, OH
 - D. Dawes Arboretum (Mitch Lynd), Newark, OH
 - E. County Line Orchard (Dave Doud), Wabash, IN
 - F. Peace Valley Orchard (Dano Simmons), Rogers, OH
 - G. Wild Orchard (Gene Wild), Indianapolis, IN
 - H. Ray Armstrong Orchard, Shepardsville, KY
3. Evaluation at any of the above locations by **any MAIA member is strongly encouraged.** However to facilitate this activity you should contact Mr. Steve Williams (Ph. 740-893-2985). He'll arrange the visit with the orchard owner and will send you an "evaluation" packet consisting of permanent labels and work sheets to record information. Soon thereafter you should send a copy of your evaluation results back to Steve at 11704 Appleton Road, Croton, OH 43013. Steve will compile information for all evaluated selections and make this information available to the MAIA board and general membership on an annual basis.
4. **Designate the evaluation ID** by using M (for **MAIA ownership**) and the location's owner initials (example JE – Jim Eckert's Orchard or LY for Lynd Fruit Farm) and the tree number. Example – MJE-1378 was selected at Jim Eckert's orchard in October 2005.
 - A. Cut and ship bud wood (for 20 trees) to a nursery of your choice, using Bud 9 rootstock. Contact the nursery prior to ascertain their willingness to do this. Waffler Nursery in Wolcott, NY has been used in the past and would be a good choice.
 - B. Contact Test Orchard owners (see item No. 6) to ascertain if they are in a position to plant them in the anticipated tree-delivery year and have finished trees shipped to those respective growers.
 - C. Send related invoice to MAIA Treasurer Anna Whipkey for payment reimbursement.
 - D. Notify Evaluation Chair Steve Williams so that he can issue a non-prop agreement to respective growers.

Test Orchard (2nd Tier) Evaluation Process

1. Plant trees **in or very near a well cared for orchard** where they will receive proper annual care.
2. When trees begin to bloom **record bloom dates** relative to a nearby standard apple cultivar.
3. When harvesting the fruit, **define proper maturity date range and record it** for future reference. Leave a few dozen fruit to test for dropping. If fruit are on the tree 2–3 weeks later, it will likely be a low-ethylene variety (long keeping). (This will take 3 or more fruiting years.)
4. Describe **basic fruit and tree characteristics** such as any pre-harvest drop, fruit size, color patterns, flavor nuances, texture(s), storage ability in common refrigeration. At harvest and at 2-week intervals, test for firmness and soluble solids. **Take digital photos of mature fruit** (if possible) and email them to Steve Williams and/or Diane Miller.
5. **Keep accurate records.** Disseminate information **only to other MAIA members** as the need arises. The single foremost reason why propagation wood and information can't be distributed outside MAIA is due to potential destruction of patent ability.
6. Currently we have **various selections in evaluation blocks at the following location(s)**.
 - A. Lynd Fruit Farm, Pataskala, OH
 - B. Eckert's Orchard, Belleville, IL
 - C. Gardens Alive Res. Farm, Tipp City, OH
 - D. Richard Staton Orchard, Hendersonville, NC
 - E. Greg Bachman (Sunny Hill), Carroll, OH
 - F. David Hull (White House Fruit), Canfield, OH
 - G. Sarah Brown (Appleworks), Trafalgar, IN
7. When the true "**elite**" selections become known (perhaps **5–7 years from now**) **replicate plantings** need to be established in at least three (3) strategic locations to ascertain annual productivity and quality characteristics under diverse growing conditions.