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Avocado Research Advisory Committee
University of California, Riverside

Avocado Sunblotch Viroid Disease

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Because it is essential to study the interaction of the sunblotch viroid with its host completely free of the three latent viruses which are found in many avocado cultivars, considerable effort has been expended establishing a clone of the virus-free Duke 7 cultivar we have in our registration block. Because the viruses are so readily transmitted via both seed and pollen, we had to establish the virus-free clone by rooting cuttings. This has been accomplished and these will shortly be inoculated with purified viroid. Other research in the project in Dr. Semancik's laboratory has shown that sunblotch viroid can be readily separated by cellulose chromatography from viral RNA and host cell components. The viroid elutes from a CF11 cellulose column at a distinctly different alcohol concentration from the other constituents. This technique should expedite other studies on characterization of the viroid.