

POTENTIAL USE OF THE WEST INDIAN RACE AS A SOURCE OF RESISTANT TO AVOCADO ROOT ROT

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Plant genetic resources are the basis of modern agriculture, guaranteeing the continuing availability of genotypes needed for crop breeding and improvement programmes. In avocado research, one of the main priorities is finding rootstocks which are resistant or tolerant to root rot caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands.

The present paper gives the results of consecutive field trials using local West Indian seedlings belonging to local ecotypes (Tenerife y La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain) and material collected in Cuba. From an initial over 1600 individuals were evaluated for tolerance to *P. cinnamomi* using different screening methods: nutrient solution tank inoculated with *P. cinnamomi* and natural infested soil. Of these, 342 seedlings were selected for the field trials in a highly infested plot.

Evaluation was done over four periods: six years (222 rootstocks), four years (58), three years (32) and two years (30). The survival rates to date are 59%, 48%, 62% and 63%, respectively. These results confirm the high agronomic interest in the West Indian race as a source of resistance against avocado root rot.