

AGRONOMIC EVALUATION OF AVOCADO CLONAL ROOTSTOCKS SELECTED FOR THEIR HIGH PRODUCTIVITY IN SOUTHERN SPAIN A-203

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This investigation shows the field behaviour of 3 rootstocks selected for their high production and productivity. The trees were cloned (12 copies/genotype) by using the Frolich technique and grafted with the Hass cv, before being planted in an orchard located in the avocado producing area of Vélez-Málaga. As control, seedlings of cvs. Topa-Topa and Bacon were used. Data of accumulated production (kg/tree) from 1998-2003 (both inclusive) showed higher values in the clonal rootstocks, IV-8 (282 kg/tree) and XV-2 (268 kg/tree) than in the best control, Topa-Topa seedlings (210 kg/tree). However, data of productivity (kg/m²) referred to tree size (estimated through the vertical projection of the tree over the soil) did not reveal significant differences among treatments, since the Topa-Topa seedlings was less vigorous than the selected rootstocks IV-8 and XV-2. Hence, it seems that when using less vigorous rootstocks it would be necessary to increase planting density to avoid a decrease in production.