

Preliminary evaluation of interspecific hybridization of rootstock breeding of almond and apricot trees.

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Some characteristics in other prunus species, such as greater disease resistance, cold hardiness, late blooming, vegetative propagation, drought and heat resistance would be of value for regional adaptation if they could be incorporated into almond and apricot. In this rootstock breeding program, made interspecific crosses between apricot, plum, mariana, myrobalan, peach, almond and GF677 at Sahand Hor. R.S. in 1998.

In most of crosses fruit set percentage and ability of seeds germination were very low and there were abnormally in growth fruits to some extent. Eighty progenies obtained, planted in Sahand Station. In first step, vegetative characteristics including tree vigour, tree habit, leaf budbreak date, leaf shape, leaf colour, suckering, root system, pest and disease susceptibility evaluated. The preliminary evaluation showed that there are many morphological differences between progenies. In second step suitable vegetative propagation method, scion/rootstock compatibility etc. will be experimented.