

INTRODUCTION AND STUDY ON THE PROPAGATION AND QUARANTINE ASPECTS OF SOME ASIAN PEAR (*Pyrus serotina*) CULTIVARS IN IRAN

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Iran is a wide country with various climatic conditions and wide range of temperature. This diversity in climates not only creates the possibility for producing a wide range of horticultural crops, also its sufficient sunshine provides good possibilities for harvesting different horticultural crops in different seasons of the year. Presently these products amount to 15 million tons per year (with the exception of vegetables and ornamentals). At present, Iran has the capacity of exporting up to 1\$ billion worth of horticultural products. Regarding the exceptional quality of some Iranian products, especially saffron, pistachios and pomegranates, for which the country holds 1st position in the world. Therefore, Iran has a good potential for increasing its horticultural crops in both terms of quality and quantity to meet world's horticultural market with wide diversity of fruits such as pome fruits. Pear (*Pyrus communis*) is an important fruit of temperate regions of Iran grown for its desirable taste and commercial value. Although, Iranian fruit industry have not yet experienced culture and production of Asian (Japanese) pear cultivars (*Pyrus serotina*).

In order to achieve and improve these objectives and with the aim of evaluation of some Asian pear cultivars under different climatic conditions of Iran the national research project have submitted to the Iranian Scientific Research Council (ISRC) in 1997. Following approval of the proposal phase one of the project (Germplasm introduction and propagation) have started in