

Soil fertility: Plant nutrition vis-à-vis fruit yield and quality of stone fruits

Tomo Milošević^{a,*}, Nebojša Milošević^b

^aDepartment of Fruit Growing and Viticulture, Faculty of Agronomy, University of Kragujevac, Čačak, Republic of Serbia

^bDepartment of Pomology and Fruit Breeding, Fruit Research Institute, Čačak, Republic of Serbia

*Corresponding author. E-mail: tomomilosevic@kg.ac.rs

OUTLINE

1 Introduction	583	6.2 Source of nutrients and their availability	591
2 Distribution, production, and importance of stone fruits	584	7 Stone fruit fertilization to improve yield and fruit quality	592
2.1 Global distribution	584	7.1 Fertilizers used in stone fruit production	592
2.2 Production statistics	584	7.2 Factors influencing stone fruit tree fertilization	593
3 Short overview about importance of stone fruits	587	7.3 Determination of adequate nutrient requirement of stone fruits	594
4 Soil fertility	587	7.4 Improving stone fruits productivity and fruit quality using fertilizers	598
5 Fertilization of stone fruit trees	588	8 Conclusions and future research	602
5.1 General overview	588	Acknowledgments	602
5.2 Response of stone fruit trees to fertilization	589	References	602
5.3 Role of individual elements in stone fruit trees	589	Further reading	606
6 Relationship of soil conditions: Nutrients	590		
6.1 Soil conditions	590		

1 Introduction

Agriculture started in multiple locations in the world some 10,000 years ago. These locations (where crop domestications took place) are distributed in some 10 areas generally between 30-degree northern latitude and southern latitude. They tend to occur in areas with higher levels of biodiversity. Although wild ancestors tend to be much more widely distributed than domesticated crops (Smartt and Simmonds, 1995), many crops originate from distinct geographic regions, which have been called Vavilov centers (Vavilov, 1926, 1951; Meyer et al., 2012). So, crop domestication has been considered as one of the key developments that enabled the rise of major civilizations (Gepts, 2014).

Data on the timing of the domestication of fruit crops are different, as new discoveries arise. Generally, the origins of fruit culture occurred in the Fertile Crescent in the late Neolithic and Bronze Age, about 8000 years ago, a period known as the second Neolithic Revolution that involved the change from villages to urban communities (Janick, 2011). For example, in the archeological excavations of lake dwelling in Bosnia (former SFR Yugoslavia) from the late Bronze Age, stones of black thorn (sloe) and sweet cherry were found (Mišić, 2006).