A Summary of the Citrus Budwood Certification Program in Sardinia

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RECENT RESEARCH points to the necessity of developing sources of virus-free citrus budwood in Sardinia, as elsewhere. A special board created by the Assessorato Agriculture e Foreste della Regione Sarda has over the last three years surveyed the virus infections of about 1,000 trees of Washington and Thomson navel, Tarocco Muso, Belladonna, Valencia late, St. Vito late, and Sanguinello sweet orange [*Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osb.], Tangerina Avana and Satsuma (*C. reticulata* Blanco), grapefruit (*C. paradisi* Macf.), and Lunario lemon [*C. limon* (L.) Burm. f.].

After rigorous selection and discarding of trees with various anomalous disorders, 361 candidate trees were selected for indexing on the following test plants: Mexican lime [*C. aurantifolia* (Christm.) Swing.] for tristeza; Orlando tangelo (*C. paradisi* Macf. x *C. reticulata* Blanco) for cachexia-xyloporosis; Rangpur lime (*C. reticulata* var. *austera* hyb.) and Etrog citron (*C. medica* L. var. *èthrog* Engl.) 60-13 for exocortis; and bitter sweet orange (*C. aurantium* L.), sweet orange, and Mexican lime for psorosis. Our first results indicate that numerous candidate trees will have to be discarded. Old-line citrus trees in Sardinia seem to be virus-free as infrequently as elsewhere, and no doubt we shall have to depend heavily on nucellar lines in the future. To that end, a program

to develop nucellar lines of the principal local varieties has been started, and nucellar lines of certain foreign selections have been imported for observation and testing.