

U. S. HORT. STATION, PSRD  
2021 SOUTH PEACH AVENUE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93727

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH DIVISION

NOTICE TO NURSERYMEN ON A NEW ALMOND ROOTSTOCK

The Fruit and Nuts Crops Research Branch of Plant Science Research Division is releasing to interested nurserymen and growers budwood of the almond selection 92-54, as TITAN. This almond blooms at the same time as the peach rootstock, Nemaguard, and when planted adjacent to it, will be pollinated by it to produce a very high proportion of F<sub>1</sub> hybrid almond x peach seed. Such plantings of TITAN and Nemaguard should be separated from other almond trees by sufficient distance to prevent contamination of TITAN flowers by other almond pollen. Seedlings from these F<sub>1</sub> hybrid seed are very vigorous and make excellent rootstocks for almond particularly in peach replant situations, in sandy areas where nematode stunting of trees on Nemaguard is severe, or in areas where moisture may be insufficient for peach rootstocks. Vigorous trees are produced on nematode infested soils.

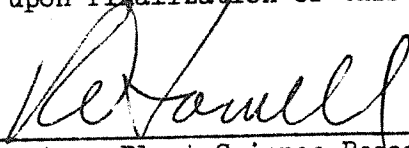
TITAN is an open pollinated seedling of a late flowering mutant of Nonpareil selected by Dr. Robert W. Jones at the U. S. Horticultural Field Station in Fresno, California, on plots operated cooperatively with the Fresno State College Foundation. The Titan-Nemaguard hybrid seedlings show a high degree of root-knot nematode resistance. They have been grown and budded at several locations in the San Joaquin Valley. The bud unions of almond and peach on the hybrid rootstock are smooth and strong.

The nut has a soft but complete shell with a closed suture which is advantageous for seed planting. Germination of seed planted the previous early December takes place readily following the natural winter chilling of the San Joaquin Valley. The soil should be well drained.

The vigor of the almond-peach hybrids has long been recognized, but a satisfactory source of hybrid seed has not been available before. With TITAN, the high proportion of hybrids produced from the seed, the configuration of the seedlings, the seed productivity of the tree, the closed shell, and a lack of double kernels have been the factors which make it suitable for this purpose.

The Plant Science Research Division has no trees of TITAN for distribution. Limited quantities of budwood or scionwood may be obtained by writing to Dr. John H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Station, 2021 South Peach Avenue, Fresno, California 93727. Release will be effective upon finalization of this notice.

9/7/51  
Date

  
Acting Director, Plant Science Research Division