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ONLINE ISSN : 1883-2261 PRINT ISSN : 0389-1763

Japanese Journal of Farm Work Research

Vol. 42 (2007), No. 4 pp.199-204

[PDF (694K)] [References]

Effects of Rootstock Diameter on Successful Union and Growth of Highbush Blueberry Grafts by Grafted Cutting

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(Received May 9, 2007) (Accepted December 1, 2007)

Abstract

Scions of highbush blueberry cultivar 'Jersey' and 'Spartan' were grafted on rootstocks of rabbiteye blueberry cultivar 'Tifblue' to determine the effects of rootstock diameter (4, 6 and 8mm) on the successful union, rooting and growth of grafts.

1) Current shoots of the thinner rootstocks terminated earlier. The thicker rootstocks showed earlier resprouting.

2) 'Jersey' scions grafted on 6- or 8-mm-diameter of 'Tifblue' rootstocks had long, vigorous and heavy current shoots.

3) The rate of rooting was higher in 'Jersey' scions grafted on 6- or 8-mm-diameter 'Tifblue' rootstocks. The plants of 'Spartan' scions grafted on 'Tifblue' rootstocks showed a lower rate of successful union and formed callous tissue at the end of the cutting.

4) Grafts by grafted cuttings required a nursery period of more than 3 months, which is sufficient for ungrafted cuttings to root.

In conclusion, grafted highbush blueberry plants on 6-mm-diameter rabbiteye rootstocks tended to perform better for the successful union and growth of grafts.

Key words

highbush blueberry, grafted cutting, rootstock diameter, nursery period, graft, rooting, growth





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To cite this article:

Kazunori ISHIKAWA and Tadashi BABA (2007): Effects of Rootstock Diameter on Successful Union and Growth of Highbush Blueberry Grafts by Grafted Cutting . Japanese Journal of Farm Work Research 42: 4 199-204 .

doi:10.4035/jsfwr.42.199

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