

UHOH-WP2-A16: Open day pome fruit: Experimental Garden for Pome, integrated production

Abstract:

Kompetenzzentrum Obstbau Bodensee (KOB) is the fruit research station for the Lake Constance region. There is a collaboration with the Hohenheim University (UHOH) concerning also variety testing. KOB is involved in the EUFRIN Working Group "Variety testing on apples and pears". Since 2001 KOB is also participating in the meetings of the German variety testers and breeders commission "Fachkommission Kernobst im Arbeitskreis Züchtung" and since 2006 in the meetings of DOSK (Deutsches Obstsortenkonsortium).

Every year new apple and pear varieties are planted in the first and second screening. We have trials of level 2 in IPM and organic farming conditions. Scab sensible varieties get a normal spraying scheme (IPM, Organic) and scab resistant varieties get only treatments, when there is a high risk on scab in springtime.

In most cases KOB used for new apple and pear varieties in test the EUFRIN testing agreement. For the evaluation of new apple and pear varieties German Descriptor list for apples and pears is used, which is comparable to the Eufirin descriptor list. Demands for a new apple or pear variety: productive, good pack-out, good fruit quality, storability and good shelf life, nice appearance and distinguishable to other varieties.

Through an intense collaboration with most of the important apple breeders, variety managers and license holders around the world KOB is trying to get the new hybrids and mutants to test them for their adaptability to the pedoclimatic conditions of our local territory. In the moment more than 200 apple varieties and mutants are in test.

Every year in autumn there are meetings for producers "Integrated production" and "Organic Production" concerning "Exchange of information and experience about new apple varieties". KOB informed about skin color and appearance, flavor characteristics, texture, harvest date, storability, and overall consumer appeal as well as tree size, training/pruning requirements, precocity, disease resistance, pollinization, and suitability to your climate.