

Walter Guerra

Versuchszentrum Laimburg, Italy  
walter.guerra@laimburg.it

# For the first time, the EUFRIN working group presents detailed estimates of exclusive and resistant apple varieties in Europe

## Info

EUFRIN website



The meeting of the EUFRIN working group Apple & Pear Variety & Rootstock Testing took place from 14 to 15 March of this year. Information on the working group and its activities can be found on <https://euftrin.eu/working-groups/apple-and-pear-variety-and-rootstock-testing>, or by scanning the QR code shown.

**From 14 to 15 March this year, the meeting of the EUFRIN working group Apple & Pear Variety & Rootstock Testing took place in Graz (Austria). As usual, in addition to 19 institutes carrying out variety trials in various countries, 25 breeders, licence holders, trading organisations and tree nurseries were present. Therefore, the meeting made possible an intensive exchange between those involved in breeding, developing and marketing new varieties in Europe and those who, with the help of scientific methods, objectively and independently test these varieties.**

In a joint presentation, the institutes sketched recent developments in the apple and pear assortment and general trends in the 20 growing regions represented. Subsequently, the breeding programmes, institutes, organisations and

companies described and presented their latest selections, varieties, brands and strategies. The great number of new varieties presented and the various marketing concepts are impressive, to say the least. Especially in the field of new apple varieties, the competition is stronger than ever.

## Exclusive and resistant apple varieties

This article mainly focuses on the current situation of exclusive and resistant apple varieties in the European apple orchards that almost cover 500,000 ha. According to information from Prognosfruit 2023, Cripps Pink - Rosy Glow/Pink Lady®, Nicoter/Kanzi® and Scifresh/Jazz® are the three most relevant club varieties at the moment, in terms of volume throughout the EU, followed by Ambrosia, Coop43/Juliet® and Scilate/Envy®.



The members of the EUFRIN working group visit the demo orchard with solar panels over apple trees in Haidegg.

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In 2023, an estimated 5% of the European apple production consisted of club varieties. There are major differences between the growing regions, however (see table 1).

North Italian South Tyrol with 25% on 4,460 ha and the German part of the Lake Constance area with 25% have the largest number of club varieties. South Tyrol has a total of 17 different club varieties. In France, a country with a large supply of club varieties, Cripps Pink - Rosy Glow/Pink Lady® is the most exclusive variety by far. The hectare of exclusive varieties in the Netherlands is comparable with that of Belgium (about 15%). In 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, in the North German region of Altes Land, club varieties represented about 40% of new plantings. In Poland, the first projects with exclusive varieties have started in the last few years, but the share in the total apple hectare of 150,000 ha is not yet significant.

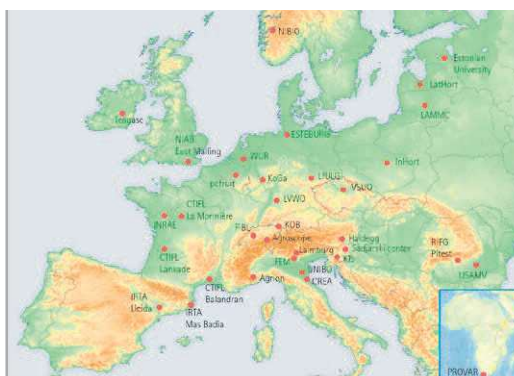
## Monogenic scab resistant varieties

Table 2 shows the estimated proportion of the hectare of the mainly monogenic scab resistant varieties. Switzerland is at the top of the list. The Swiss can apply for subsidies of CHF 28,000 (about 29,750 euros) per hectare for new plantings of so-called robust varieties, such as SQ159, Ladina, Freya, Rustica, Ecolette, Topaz, Coop43, Wurtwinning, Xeleven and Bonita.

**Table 1. Estimated share of exclusive apple varieties in the various European growing areas**

| Share of the total surface area | in %  |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| South Tyrol (Italy)             | 25    |
| Lake Constance (Germany)        | 25    |
| Emilia-Romagna (Italy)          | 22    |
| Switzerland                     | 18    |
| Sachsen (Germany)               | 17    |
| Austria                         | 17    |
| Piemonte (Italy)                | 15    |
| The Netherlands                 | 15    |
| France                          | 15    |
| Altes Land (Germany)            | 13-16 |
| Belgium                         | 13    |
| Switzerland (organic)           | 12    |
| West-Germany                    | 10-15 |
| Spain                           | 8     |
| Slovenia                        | 3     |

Source: EUFRIN



The locations of the EUFRIN partner institutes

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## Exchange of test results

On the second day, which is traditionally only reserved for institutes that are a member of EUFRIN, the focus was on the confidential exchange of test results of new varieties and on current rootstock trials. The large number of institutes taking part and the diversity of climate conditions resulting from this, makes the network globally unique. In the near future, the five trials carried out jointly (one for pear, four for apple), will yield reliable results on the potential of new rootstocks for pip fruit.



**Table 2. Estimated proportion of the hectare of resistant apple varieties in European growing areas in descending order**

| Proportion of the total surface area | in % |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Switzerland (organic)                | 30   |
| Switzerland                          | 15   |
| France                               | 13   |
| Slovenia                             | 13   |
| Altes Land (Germany)                 | 7-9  |
| Emilia-Romagna (Italy)               | 7    |
| Austria                              | 7    |
| Piemonte (Italy)                     | 7    |
| South Tyrol (Italy)                  | 5    |
| West-Germany                         | 5    |
| Bodensee (Germany)                   | 4    |
| The Netherlands                      | 4    |
| Belgium                              | 4    |
| Sachsen (Germany)                    | 3    |
| Poland                               | 1    |
| Spain                                | 1    |

Source: EUFRIN

## Sources of information

Information on the surface areas of the new club varieties and resistant varieties in the various regions, was gathered from A. Cebulj (AIS Ljubljana, Slovenia), D. Kruczynska (InHort, Poland), S. Metzner (LfULG Dresden Pillnitz, Germany), H. Holthusen (Esteburg, Germany), N. Siefen (KOB, Germany), L. Klophaus (DLR Rheinpfalz, Germany), T. Rühmer (Haidegg, Austria), S. Cia (Agroscope, Switzerland), M. Friedli (FiBL, Switzerland), A. van der Heiden (WUR, the Netherlands), S. Codarin (CTIFL, France), W. Guerra (Versuchszentrum Laimburg, Italy), R. Gregori (UNI-BO, Italy), D. Nari (Agrion, Italy), J. Vercammen (pcfruit, Belgium) en L. Gonzalez (IRTA, Spain).

## New members

At the end of the event, Jef Vercammen of pcfruit (Belgium) and Walter Guerra of the Laimburg trial centre (Italy) were appointed respectively chairman and secretary of the EUFRIN working group Apple & Pear Variety & Rootstock Testing. Two institutes, TEAGASC from Ireland and the Slovenian Sadjarski centre in Maribor, were added to the working group. The next meeting will take place in two years' time in the spring of 2026 in Belgium.