



Review

Of the PhD thesis for acquiring the educational-and-scientific degree 'Doctor' in the doctoral programme 'Fruit-Growing', Professional Field 6.1. Crop Production, Area of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

Author of the PhD Thesis: Assist. Prof. Georgi Ivanov Govedarov, self-training PhD student at the Department of Fruit-Growing, Agricultural University of Plovdiv

PhD Thesis Title: Opportunities for accelerated production of pear and quince trees on different quince rootstocks

Reviewer: Argir Todorov Zhivondov from the Fruit-Growing Institute in Plovdiv, Professional Field 6.1. 'Crop Production', Major 'Breeding and Seed Production of Cultivated Plants', member of the Scientific Board of Examiners in accordance with Order No. RD-16-1374 of 13.12.2019 of the Rector of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

1. Brief biographical data of the PhD student

Assist. Prof. Georgi Ivanov Govedarov was born on 19.02.1959 in Plovdiv. In 1977 he graduated from the Secondary School of Mathematics in Dobrich. He completed his higher education in 1984 at the Higher Institute of Agriculture in Plovdiv. During the period 1984-1988 he worked as an agronomist, supervisor of a field team, a seed production area and greenhouses in the town of Rakovski. Since 1988 to date he is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Fruit-Growing, the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. He has been conducting seminars, delivering lectures and supervising student internships. He has a good command of English and Russian languages. He has good communication skills to work in a team. He possesses a good level of computer literacy to handle basic computer programmes and the Internet.

2. Relevance of the PhD Thesis

The production of fruit trees is the first and major stage of fruit production. The relatively long, most often two-year technological production

cycle, requires profound and accurate knowledge, high qualification, precision work and rational adherence to seasonal agricultural practices, and all that entails many responsibilities. On its turn, those responsibilities are related to the authenticity of the cultivar/rootstock combinations and the production of healthy planting material.

The increasing interest in shortening the technological process for the production of fruit planting material has been manifested for decades. Nowadays, there are still separate technological units for some fruit species that need to be further improved to facilitate the production process. I am convinced that the PhD thesis defended today, provides answers to some of the important and topical questions posed above, with the aim of accelerating the production of pear and quince trees.

3. Aim, Tasks, Hypothesis and Methods of Study

In his PhD thesis, Assist. Prof. Georgi Govedarov has concentrated his efforts on improving the efficiency of pear and quince tree production, by applying practices to accelerate the production cycle to a year. To achieve this goal, he has carried out research studies in three directions:

- in a mother plantation for the production of vegetative quince rootstocks;
- in a mother plantation for the production of cuttings of quince tree cultivars;
- in a second-year nursery garden for accelerated production of pear and quince trees.

Observations and studies were carried out in the period 1999-2002 in the Experimental Fields of the Department of Fruit-Growing at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, on the territory of the village of Brestnik.

From a methodological point of view, the doctoral student approached all the observations and reported characteristics correctly and with the necessary precision. The studies were based on a system of indicators, which allowed and guaranteed the achievement of the aims set. The accelerated method of producing pear and quince trees was discussed and compared to the traditional method in a second-year nursery garden. Meteorological characteristics during the years of the study were presented.

