WALNUT TREE GRAFTING AND PLANTING VIDEO

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ABSTRACT

A professionally produced DVD featuring Alex Suchan of Suchan Valadez Farm and Nursery in Upper Lake, California is being produced. Segments include Selecting and Collecting Graft Wood, Supplies, Patch Budding, Whip Grafting, Bark Grafting, and Top Working Large Trees, Planting and Care of New Trees, and an Interview with Alex. The DVD will be completed in the first half of 2012. It will be posted on the Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center, Backyard Orchard, and local UCCE websites. The DVD will also be available through the ANR Catalog after going through peer review.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project is to create a professionally produced video featuring nurseryman Alex Suchan of Suchan Valadex Nursery in Upper Lake, Lake County, California. Alex is a grafting expert who has lent his time and expertise to many UC researchers, farm advisors, and others needing instruction and advice on planting, grafting and caring for young and mature walnut trees. Alex has long provided annual grafting and tree planting classes to commercial and non-commercial North Coast walnut growers. The purpose of the DVD is to teach those unable to attend these demonstrations.

PROCEDURES AND RESULTS

ANR Communications Senior Producer/Director Ray Lucas travelled to Lake County on May 11, 2011. The authors spent an entire day filming Alex Suchan as he demonstrated whip grafting, bark grafting, and patch budding. There are also sections on limb grafting very large trees, supplies for each operation, and an interview of Alex. The segments on selecting and cutting grafting wood and proper planting will be filmed in 2012. The authors have completed the Edit Worksheets from the timecoded DVDs in preparation for the next phase of editing. The authors are currently working on the script for the segments that will include introductions, credits, acknowledgements and segways into each of the segments. The entire video will be completed the first half of 2012. Each type of graft will be available separately and will include supplies and interview. Each segment will be approximately 10-20 minutes in length.

DISCUSSION

The video, when completed, will be the first detailed visual product on this topic offered by ANR Catalog and UCCE. It will fill a large “hole” in assisting new and experienced grafters. Walnuts are very difficult to graft due to bleeding and this video will help new grafters be successful.