WALNUT TREE GRAFTING AND PLANTING VIDEO

Rachel Elkins, Carolyn DeBuse, Alex Suchan, and Ray Lucas

ABSTRACT

A professionally produced DVD featuring Alex Suchan of Suchan Farm and Nursery in Upper Lake, California has been produced. Segments include Introduction (including questions and answers with Alex and terms used in the demonstration), Selecting and Graft Wood, Patch Bud, Whip Graft, Bark Graft, Tree Planting, and Credits. The DVD was completed and is currently undergoing ANR peer review. Once the review process is completed, prospectively in January 2013, it is planned that the video will be posted on the Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center, Backyard Orchard, and local UCCE websites, as well as on social media sites. The DVD will also be available for sale through the ANR Catalog.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project was to create a professionally produced video featuring nurseryman Alex Suchan of Suchan Farm and 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 or who require a more in-depth and repeatable learning opportunity.

PROCEDURES AND RESULTS

ANR Communications Senior Producer/Director Ray Lucas travelled to Lake County on two occasions in 2011 and 2012 to film Alex Suchan as he demonstrated selecting graft wood, patch budding, whip grafting, bark grafting, top working large trees, and planting and care of new trees. Each section includes the proper supplies for each operation. The authors completed short scripts for each demonstration segment to complement Alex’s expert extemporaneous explanations, as well as a narrated introduction, glossary of terms from UC sources, and credits. Each segment of the video includes a separate menu and can be viewed separately. The entire video is 70 minutes and each segment is 10-20 minutes in length.

DISCUSSION

This video, when released, will be the first detailed visual product on this topic offered by ANR Catalog and UCCE. In addition to capturing the deep and unique knowledge of a renowned California grower and nurseryman, 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.