

**Appendix 1.** Chemical analysis of soil, sand, sawdust and husks, respectively, used in the experiments

Nitrate nitrogen (ppm N)	16.7	1.0	2.0	19.8
Phosphorus BSES (ppm P)	20	99++	23	99++
Phosphorus bicarb (ppm P)	25	32	35	99+
Potassium (ppm K)	120	23	120	2550
Calcium (ppm Ca)	600	310	4200	2150
Magnesium (ppm Mg)	166	150	620	840
pH (1.5 water)	5.2	5.2	4.6	6.1
Iron (ppm Fe)	205	67	200++	194
Copper (ppm Cu)	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.2
Manganese (ppm Mn)	27	8	62	130
Zinc (ppm Zn)	2.2	0.8	20.8	20++
Sodium (ppm Na)	13	18	44	310
Chloride (ppm Cl)	10	5	60	350
Conductivity (mmho/cm)	0.04	0.13	0.18	0.32
Organic carbon (% C)	3.30	0.25	5.0+	5.0+
Sulphate sulphur (ppm S)	44	99+	46.0	96.0
Soil colour	red brown	yellow brown	—	—
Soil texture	silty loam	sand	sawdust	husks

## PEACH UNDERSTOCK FROM CUTTINGS

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It has been the practice to market peach trees during the dormant months of the year. From a retail aspect this practice develops sales resistance as, during this period, the public does not display the same purchasing interest as during the summer period when fruit is available. The reverse attitude applies in the summer when field stock is not available until winter. In addition, field-grown containerised stock is usually large, lacks sales appeal, and is difficult to handle.

Producing rootstocks of 'Okinawa' (100 hours chilling required) and 'Nemaguard' (resistant to certain species of nematodes) from cuttings during spring, summer and autumn, is more economical and reduces the production time to a few months.

Rootstock tip cuttings are taken in the autumn (second week in April), disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite for 4 minutes, cut to 10 cm in length and slightly wounded at the base of the cutting by removing a small slither about 1 cm long by 2 mm wide. They are dipped in a hormone powder containing 0.2% IBA and NAA, and inserted into 20% peat-sand mix and placed on bottom heat at 18°C for four weeks. Misting must be reduced or stopped as soon as a reasonable callus is apparent. When rooted, these cuttings must be transferred to liner containers for wintering then, as root development begins in late winter, trans-

ferred to one gallon containers. As rapid root development takes place in early spring these stock are ready to bud with stored budwood by late October or early November. Three weeks after budding remove any ties or tapes. Shorten the height of the stock by 50%. As the bud develops, remove the remainder of the stock. Understocks must not be allowed to dry at any time during the first three weeks of budding — any stress during this period will greatly reduce the “take” or bud survival. This method will produce a sturdy saleable tree, in a container, by mid-summer.

Okinawa is a stock that commences growth early after a very short dormancy period and when autumn-budded it will produce trees by spring (late October), especially when budded with cultivars such as Maravilha or Flordasun. Stocks for this are produced by the method described above during spring and summer. Care must be taken to ensure that stocks are kept in a vigorous growing condition at all times.

Peach stocks produced by this method include: Nemaguard, Okinawa, Golden Queen, American Red, and Elberta.

## **A METHOD FOR PROPAGATING PITTOSPORUM EUGENIODES ‘VARIEGATUM’**

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The genus *Pittosporum* provides us with some 160 species endemic only to the southern hemisphere. One such cultivated species is *Pittosporum eugenoides* ‘Variegatum.’ This handsome creamy-white margined form is one of the finest of hardy variegated plants. It has become widely propagated by Australian nurseries since its introduction.

The cuttings are collected in winter, from early June to late July, once the autumn growth has firmed. The current season’s growth is collected from the stock bushes in the early morning with the aid of secateurs and placed into disposable polythene bags.

The cuttings are placed in a Captan dip and are prepared with sharpened surgical scissors. These are very light and easy to use; you are not pushing against a spring so they are less tiring than secateurs and they are easier to keep sharp. Bottom leaves are pulled off and a basal cut is made below a node, where last season’s growth matured. A wound approximately 2cm long is made on either side of the bud exposing the cambium and phloem tissues. The leaves at the top of the cutting are trimmed