



The Behaviour of Some Apple Cultivars Grafted on M9 in Two Different Ecological Areas: Korça and Lushnja

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Abstract: Three main apple cultivars were used in this study conducted in Albania: “Golden Delicious”, “Gala” and “Starking”, grafted on the M9 rootstock. The orchards with the above combinations were 5 years old and are placed in two different ecological areas: Korça and Lushnja. For each of the combinations, 5 trees were taken on which there have been several measurements dealing with the evaluation of the elements of the crown architecture: crown height and length and diameter, crown diameter 10 cm above the grafting point, diameter of the rootstock 10 cm below the grafting point, diameter of skeletal branches up to 1.5m, structure of fruiting elements. The results have shown that yearly growth expressed in the diameter growth of the rootstock was smaller under the ecological conditions of Lushnja. This was also reflected in the development of other structural elements of the crown. ‘Gala’/M9 combination encourages an earlier bearing and being an early ripening cultivar is more effective for the growing conditions of the coastal area (Lushnja) supplying the market during the first days of August.

Keywords: *apple, cultivar, rootstock, canopy structural elements*

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