Documentation: Mapping and Coding

UCDAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

fact sheet

Mapping and coding

Trees are mapped and coded so that mother block and nursery trees can be easily found. By so doing, you ensure that true-to-type trees are produced.

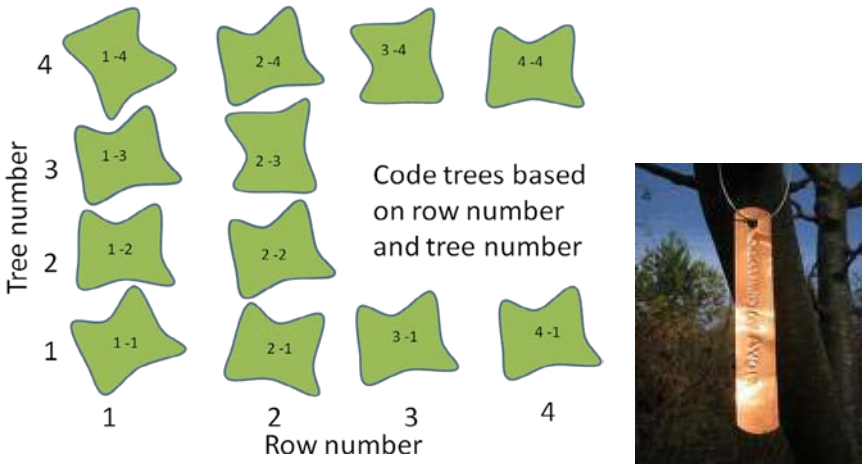
A map shows 1) the location of mother block trees and 2) the location of different varieties in a nursery block.

Mother block trees can be marked or coded in three ways

1. By color
2. With permanent tags or signs, and/or
3. By Tattoo

Note: Nursery trees just require color coding or end of row signs.

Option	Key point /why
1. Color coding	Establish and use color code systems – one for rootstock and one for the budwood scion. Each color or combination of colors represents a distinct variety or a distinct rootstock. You may need to combine colors (e.g., blue plus yellow) if there are many rootstock or varieties grown. In the nursery, code trees just prior to digging Mother block trees are sometimes color coded – especially if workers are illiterate.
2. Permanent tagging/signs	Tags or signs can be used in mother blocks as a back-up for mapping
3. Tattoo	Sometimes a number or code (e.g., 5-1) is cut into the bark to identify mother block trees. The code used is linked to the map.



Develop a simple logical code for your map, tree tattoos and permanent tags.

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