

Development of molecular markers for fire blight resistance in pear (*Pyrus communis* L.)

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Pear is an important fruit crop species. Since most varieties grown commercially are highly susceptible to fire blight, a severe disease that is caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*, and appropriate control measures are scarce, the cultivation of pears remains challenging. The cultivation of varieties that are resistant to fire blight is considered as one of the most effective remedies against this disease. Therefore, resistance to fire blight is an important topic in pear breeding. In order to select for resistance at an early stage marker-assisted selection (MAS) is required. We report on the development of SSR-markers linked to fire blight resistance-loci of the pear variety 'Harrow Sweet', which will be used for MAS of pear seedlings.

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