Introducing improved rootstocks with resistance to aggressive root-knot nematodes is the chief goal of the breeding program. Selections are evaluated for rooting and grafting ability and their performance as rootstocks in grafted vineyard trials is determined in comparison to the check rootstock Freedom.

Rootstock selections enter the virus testing program at University of California Foundation Plant Services following their entry into grafted vineyard trials. The selections to the right were planted into grafted vineyard trials in 2009 and have nematode resistance from (left to right) V. arizonica, V. rotundifolia, and V. aestivalis.