

# Prune Varietals Program: 2023 Decisions & Future Direction



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## A Long-Awaited Harvest: Background on the Prune Breeding Program

- Began in 1985,
- Investment to date by the CPB of 2.6 million USD,
- A few initial selections in 2000 and 2004 (Sutter, Tulare Giant and Muir Beauty) but none with staying power over Improved French,
- New selections stopped in 2022,
- Expectation of a possible 23 selections to be evaluated between now and 2035,
- These selections will go through a process in dedicated research blocks, in addition to Grower fields,



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## 2023: A Decision Point

**A CM&S Research Committee Task Force reviewed options for a transition in “tree maintenance” of the Varietal Program in the past year.**

### **WHY?**

- Significantly increased costs at UC field facilities.
- Unpredictable cost increases.
- (In)ability of UC field facilities to plant and maintain these trees to industry standard.



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## 2023: Decision

**This Task Force recommended that the Board move forward with a transition of the varietal program to Sierra Gold. The Board adopted this recommendation and that is moving forward.**

### **Benefits of this transition:**

- Cost stability in the short term and reduced overall costs in the long term.
- Improved management.
- Increased collaboration between UC Prune Breeding staff (Sarah Castro) and industry.
- Potential for more stable management of “unused” breeding material in the long term.

