

## **Development and Productivity of Apple Trees cv. MaxiGala on Different Planting Depth**

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The influence of planting depth of apple trees is a discussion theme between growers, technicians and researchers, about what is the influence on vigor, uniformity and even longevity of the orchard. The aim of this work was to evaluate the vegetative and productive performance in apple trees planted at different depth. The trial was installed in Vacaria-RS, Brazil Latitude 28° 30' 44" S e Longitude 50° 56' 02" W in 2010 with cultivar MaxiGala, grafted on M.9 rootstock. Three different planting depths were tested, placing the graft union 5 cm from the ground, 10 cm and 20 cm. The experimental design used was randomized block, with four repetitions and ten plants per plot. During the evaluation years was observed that trees planted with the graft union 5 cm from the ground had trees with more vigor and less yield. Trees planted with the graft union 20 cm from the ground level showed less vigor in the canopy but did not increase the crop yield. Trees planted with the graft union 10 cm from the ground level presented an intermediary vigor and the biggest yields. The fruit quality was not affected by different planting depth.

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