Flordaguard Seed Germination

1. Store seed at 45°F in paper bags to prevent moisture build up.
   a. Seeds may be stored up to 2 ½ years without an appreciable decrease in germination rate.
   b. Seeds should be stored under dry conditions.
2. When ready to stratify seed, remove seeds from pits with a pair of anvil pruners (see picture) or other method of extraction that will not damage seed within pit. Cut along the seam of the pit on one side to prevent damage to the seed in the center of the pit.
3. Soak seeds in water for 5 days. Discard water and replace with clean water every day during that period.
4. Stratify seeds in moist perlite with Captan or other fungicide at 45°F for 40-60 days before planting.
5. Seed can then be placed in the field or greenhouse in late January or early February for germination. Seed should germinate in 4-5 weeks.
6. After germination, ensure that seedlings are true to type – seedling trees should have shoots with red leaves – at least the first 6-7 leaves. If new growth is green in color, these should be removed from the field or greenhouse, since they are not “true-to-type” and will not be fully resistant to Meloidogyne floridensis, the peach root knot nematode. (See below)

7. The UF Stonefruit Breeding program is guaranteeing a 85% germination rate on seed provided; with the proviso that seed is not damaged during the extraction process and all procedures above are followed. Please contact Mercy Olmstead (mercy1@ufl.edu; 352-273-4772) if this germination rate is not realized.