

Project No.: 13K-3455-5218

Title: Alternate Crops: Growing Cherries on Dwarfing Rootstocks for Niche Markets

Reporting Period: 2000

Personnel:

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Accomplishments

A planting of cherry varieties and selections on dwarfing Gisela rootstocks has been established and netting installed to prevent bird damage.. In 2000 several varieties produced significant quantities of fruit for harvest. Data was collected on fruit yields, cracking, maturity, etc. and for those varieties with significant fruit, the crop was harvested, weighed, and sorted into good fruit, cracked, and rot (see Appendix, Table 1.) Trees were pruned harder than in 1999 to increase fruit size.

Results

Trees of the late sweet cherry varieties 'Lapins,' 'Sweetheart' and 'Hudson,' planted in 1996 on Gisela 5 (148-2) rootstock, produced sufficient quantities of fruit for data collection and study. Pickers harvested all fruit, which was then sorted into good fruit, cracked, and rot. Weights were recorded, and yields per tree calculated. 'Lapins' had the highest yield at 34.5 lbs/tree, the largest size fruit (11 grams/fruit) and lowest percentages of cracking and rot. 'Sweetheart' yielded 13.6 lbs/tree (9.8 grams/fruit) and 'Hudson' 33.6 lbs/tree (9.8 grams/fruit). Yield was down from that recorded in 1999, but fruit size was up.

'Hudson,' 'Lapins,' and 'Sweetheart' appear to have good potential as very late ripening varieties. Young grafts of 'Regina' and 'Attika' produced fruit that indicate good market quality but their productivity and other characteristics await further evaluation. 'Surefire,' a newly introduced pie cherry, produced an early, very heavy yield that makes it a potential for tart cherry production. Several numbered selections also produced fruit and preliminary evaluations were recorded.

Publications

None.

Appendix

The results appear in Table 1 (weights recorded in pounds).

Table 1. Cherry harvest data

Cv	Pick Date	Size gms/frt	Total Fruit (1)	Yield lbs/tree	% Crack	% Rot
Lapins	7/19	11.0	172.5	34.5	2	6
Sweetheart	7/27	9.8	54.4	13.6	44	3
Hudson	8/07	9.8	168.0	33.6	22	21

(1) Trees per plot = 5, except Sweetheart = 4 trees/plot

"Total fruit" included all fruit, "cracked" included all fruit with rain cracking, and "rot" consisted of rotted fruit from whatever cause, i.e. rain cracks, fruit clumped together, etc.