



Progress Report 2006: Stone Fruit

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Cherry

In 2006 most cherry varieties set a good crop and there was little cracking or rot. **Lapins** has been a consistent producer of high quality fruit and still rates high for commercial production in western Washington. Recent self fertile introductions **Tehranivee** and **Vandalay** look good also, particularly for their high productivity, and can be grown in solid blocks without a pollinizer. **Hartland** [not self fruitful] is another new dark sweet cherry variety worth noting. Old standards **Bing** and **Rainier** on Gisela 5 rootstock have very good quality. **Surefire** still stands out as a top rated productive pie cherry, well suited to home gardens for its compact growth habit.

New: Several new selections from Geneva look promising and we will evaluate them more fully in 2007: **NY 205**, **NY 242**, **NY 5288** and **NY 7855**.

Apricot

Apricot yields in 2006 were poor, with a few trees producing a harvestable crop and most having few or no fruit. Several new varieties and selections from both Geneva and Rutgers breeding programs are on trial: **Jersecot**, **NJA 43**, **NJA 97**, **NJA 105**, **NY 525**, **NY 592**, **NY 605** and **NY 609**. A few of these produced sample fruit but yields on most were poor. They will receive final evaluation in 2007. No apricot variety we have tested has shown any commercial potential because of inconsistent productivity. We continue to look for new apricot varieties that might have better potential.

New:

Hunza, **Chinese Montgamet** (sweet pit variety)

Peach and Nectarine

Peach and nectarine harvest was very poor in 2006, with only a few varieties yielding a significant crop. **Harken**, **Starfire**, **Juneprince** and **Blazingstar** had some sample fruit but many trees had no fruit at all. **HW 252**, a high quality peach selection from Harrow, Ontario also had some fruit, and local nurseries are seeking permission to produce and sell trees. **Township**, a new leaf curl resistant seedling of local origin, produced a small crop in 2006; fruit quality and observed resistance to leaf curl were good. We look forward to seeing how it does in 2007.

Conditions for nectarines were the same as for the peaches, with most varieties yielding little or no fruit. **Hardired**, a yellow fleshed nectarine ripe about 10 days after Redhaven, is still the most reliable producer we have tested.

Plum

Productivity was poor in most of the early plums, but the later blooming plums produced well. Several varieties of the later European plums seem to have commercial potential as well as home garden use. Overall the fruit ripened slightly earlier compared with an average season. Since plums cover an extended harvest season from July to September, they have potential for season long fresh market sales.

Vision is a late Italian prune type from the Vineland, Ontario breeding program, with attractive dark purple-blue fruit and dense sweet flesh. Ripe in late September, it is a very good choice to extend the fresh plum season. **Blues Jam**, tested as NY 58.904.1, is a late ripening blue plum, small and round like a Damson but much sweeter, and very productive. We are continuing to evaluate stone fruit and to acquire a few of the most promising new introductions.

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