greenish to pale yellow with heavy pubescence; very deep or medium-shallow cavity usually furrowed; basin of variable depth; pale cream flesh, gritty at core, coarse grained and astringent. Early to midseason.

'Tas' (stone) or **'Kis'** (winter): these cultivar names appear to be used synonymously to describe fruits of a very late maturing cultivar. 'Stone' refers to the hardness of the fruit while 'winter' indicates how easily these fruits can be stored, under very primitive conditions, to provide fruit as late as December and January.

Fruit small or medium size, variable; obtuse-ovate, slightly pyriform or obovate - obtuse - pyriform, unequal sides; greenish yellow or deep yellow and dull with heavy pubescence; cavity shallow or slight depression; basin shallow-medium; whitish-cream or creamy-yellow flesh, gritty at core, dry, coarse-grained and slightly sweet. Late season. Size variable, approximately 8.5 x 7.5 cm.

Small Fruited Variety

'Midilli': the cultivar name refers to the island of Mitilini, off the Aegean coast of Turkey, where this cultivar may have originated. Small uniform fruit, roundish, obtuse-ovate and truncate at both ends; bright yellow, pubescent; cavity wide and shallow; basin very wide, medium to deep; whitish-cream flesh, gritty at core, soft, aromatic and slightly sweet. Late season. Dessert use. Size 7.4 x 7.0 cm.

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Varieties of Western Sandcherry *(Prunus besseyi)*

ROBERT ERSKINE*

Professor Niels E. Hansen was the pioneer in Western Sandcherry selection at the South Dakota Experimental Station at Brookings, South Dakota, where he was head of the Department of Horticulture at South Dakota State College for 42 years. Professor Hansen had been introduced to the Western sandcherry by the famous botanist, Professor Charles E. Bessey, whose name the sandcherry bears. Hansen was taught by Professor Bessey at Iowa State College, at Ames, where he obtained his degree in 1887.

The Western sandcherry is one of the Great Plains' most important native fruits. It is found westward from Dakota, Iowa and Kansas to Colorado and Utah and north to Manitoba. The Sioux Indians and early settlers used it extensively. The bush seldom grows more than four or five feet tall. It fruits in clusters all along the branches, which are generally stolons shooting from the ground. The fruit, which is cherry-size, is often borne in immense crops; and, although many are sour and inedible, the berries are good eaten fresh, or for jams and jellies. On some bushes, the fruit have large pits; but on others, relatively small pits, such as in a sweet cherry. *Prunus besseyi* grows under extremely sereve conditions of drought and cold, being hardy at 50° to 60° below zero; and it seems to be completely disease resistant.

Professor Hansen's selection work at the South Dakota Experiment Station was carried on for many years

*Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada

after his retirement, and many named varieties resulted. The Morden Research Station at Morden, Manitoba, has also selected some good sandcherries, and several private individuals have made selections over the years.

Descriptions of some of the principal varieties, beginning with a group which originated at the South Dakota Experiment Station at Brookings, are as follows:

Sioux: This was one of Hansen's early originations back in 1902. It has fruits to 5/8 of an inch in size, of good quality, and ripens early.

Oahe: Selected at Brookings in 1937. It also has 5/8 inch, good quality fruit, a little earlier than Sioux.

Amber: A yellow-skinned fruit, 3/4 inch in diameter. Earlier than Oahe, it ripens in July.

Teepee: A seedling of Sioux, selected in 1937; 5/8 of an inch in size.

Ruby: With 3/4 inch fruit; has red flesh. (Most varieties have green flesh.)

Wampum: Early ripening (August 1), 3/4 inch fruit.

CP-64: Large fruit, 7/8 of an inch in diameter.

Varieties introduced in Canada are as follows:

Advance: Selected by Seager Wheeler, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, in 1929. Medium to large fruit.

Black Beauty: Selected by C. F. Chipman, Winnipeg, Manitoba; 3/4 inch fruit, good quality.

Brooks: Selected at the Horticultural Station, Brooks, Alberta, in 1934. Egg-shaped fruit. One of the largest fruited selections, to nearly one inch in diameter.

Mando: Selected at the Experimental Station at Morden in 1931; 3/4 inch fruit.

Manmoor: Selected at the Experimental Station at Morden in 1929; 3/4 inch fruit. It seems to be one of the hardiest, good quality sandcherries with me.

Leafland: Selected by the writer over 20 years ago; 3/4 inch, good fruit. Pit rather large. One of the hardiest.

There are other varieties classed as sandcherries, but known to be hybrids. Their fruit are not large enough to be put in the category of what are known as "cherry plums." One of the best known of these is the **Honeywood** sandcherry, selected by A. J. Porter at Parkside, Saskatchewan. It has 3/4 inch fruit, is very hardy, and easily grown. **Manorette:** Selected by Percy H. Wright of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. A seedling of Manor cherry plum. Said to be one of the best in flavor, it has been too late to ripen here.

Professor Hansen also did extensive work crossing the Western sandcherry with the Burbank Japanese plum and the Chinese apricot-plum, *prunus simoni*, to produce "cherry-plums"; but this is a subject for another day.

Growing Small Fruits in the Home Garden. 1970. By J. W. Courter, C. C. Zych and M. C. Shurtleff. Circ. 935, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Although directed mainly at gardeners in Illinois, this excellent bulletin will be helpful to gardeners in all temperate areas. All cultural practices needed to successfully grow strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, currants, gooseberries, and grapes are described in detail.

A number of line drawings are used effectively to illustrate training and pruning of the different fruits. And an excellent list of references will undoubtedly prove very helpful.