'Angela', an X-disease Resistant Sweet Cherry

BRYCE N. WADLEY[1]

The cherry variety 'Angela', just released for propagation by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Research Service, is comparable to 'Bing' and 'Lambert' in quality and is superior to these varieties in resistance to frost damage, rain cracking, and doubling. Inoculation tests indicate that 'Angela' is also highly resistant to western X-disease.

This variety originated from open pollinated 'Napa Long Stem Bing' seeds collected in 1964. Field studies were made in Farmington, Utah.

Bloom in 'Angela' occurs 3 to 5 days later than 'Lambert', which gives considerable resistance to spring frost damage, and fruit set has been good to heavy each year since 1969. Temperatures below −20°F in December of 1972 caused serious damage to many sweet cherry varieties, including 'Bing' and 'Ranier'; 'Angela' produced a comparatively good crop.

'Angela' ripens with 'Lambert'. The fruit is large, black, and 'Bing'-shaped with a medium-long stem, a bright finish, and a good flavor.

Heavy rains during late June 1969 caused an estimated 25 to 40 percent splitting of 'Bing' and 'Lambert' fruits in plots at Farmington, and as high as 70 to 80 percent in Utah's commercial orchards. No splitting was observed in 'Angela'.

Doubles in 'Bing' cherries often range as high as 30 percent in northern Utah orchards and as high as 80 percent in Utah's southern orchards. No doubles have been observed in 'Angela'.

Pollination studies indicate that while 'Angela' is self-sterile there is no evidence so far that 'Angela' would not be compatible with 'Bing' and 'Lambert' varieties. In spite of adverse weather conditions during some years, fruit set has been good.

'Angela' sweet cherry is suggested as a replacement for 'Bing' or 'Lambert' in areas where X-disease causes serious tree losses and, also, as a possible pollinizer variety for 'Bing' or 'Lambert' in areas where X-disease is not a problem or where late spring frosts or fruit doubling cause serious losses.

Requests for budwood should be sent to Bryce N. Wadley, UMC 45, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322.

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