ripe during the first 10 days of July at Byron.

Trees of Explorer have, so far, shown good to very good resistance to the three bacterial diseases which beset plum production in the southeastern United States. Resistance to bacterial leafspot, *Xanthomonas pruni* (E. F. Sm.) Dows., including the branch cankering phase, is very good. Resistance to bacterial canker, *Pseudomonas syringae* Van Hall, is thought to be good although there were no critically old trees to be challenged and observed during the last severe outbreak of bacterial canker. Resistance to the plum leaf scald that is apparently associated with the presence of a Rickettsia-like bacterium and drought conditions has been good to this time.

Budwood from recently indexed trees is currently available in limited quantities from the USDA-SEA-AR, Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 87, Byron, GA 31008, USA.

New Plum Variety: Blackamber

D. W. Ramming and O. L. Tanner[1]

A new Japanese-type plum cultivar Blackamber has been introduced to extend the season of Friar type plums.

ORIGIN

Blackamber was selected in 1973 by John H. Weinberger from a progeny of Friar X Queen Rosa crossed in 1970. It was tested as K68-43 in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

CHARACTERISTICS

In most years, Blackamber ripens about the last week of June at Fresno, California. Thus, it is 1 week earlier than El Dorado and 3 weeks earlier than Friar. Like Friar's, the fruit surface is black at maturity, showing no bruises. The oblate fruit is large, averaging 6.2 cm in diameter and 5.3 cm in length. The flesh is light yellow with slight bleeding of red into the flesh at full maturity. The flesh is firm and of good quality. The pit is almost free and very small, accounting for about 1% of the fruit weight.

Fig. 1. Blackamber plum.

The flowers of Blackamber are not self-fertile and require a pollinizor. It is intercompatible with Friar and, in normal years, blooms with Friar. Blackamber trees are upright in growth habit and of average vigor. Blackamber is recommended for areas where Japanese-type plums can be grown.

Limited amounts of budwood may be obtained from David Ramming, U.S. Horticultural Field Station, P.O. Box 8143, Fresno, CA 93747.

Ennis — A Large Filbert[1]

H. B. Lagerstedt[2]

Ennis is a round nut that is larger and more productive than the standard main crop cultivar Barcelona. The latter has been the major cultivar planted in the Pacific Northwest since the turn of the century and now represents about 85% of the filberts produced. Barcelona has served the industry well, but it has several faults that are absent in Ennis. Barcelona may produce as high as 20% blanks (empty shells), is highly susceptible to "Brown Stain," a physiological disorder, is strongly biennial bearing, and has certain unattractive shell and kernel characterisitcs. Ennis is being planted as rapidly as trees become available from nurserymen and should prove to be a great improvement over Barcelona.

ORIGIN

Ennis is one of five "grower selections" that were brought to the attention of personnel of the Oregon State Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the USDA. Six Ennis trees were brought to Oregon from Washington about 1940, their parentage and source unknown. No other trees of this cultivar have been discovered in either Washington or Oregon orchards.

In 1960 Mr. Andrew Loughridge of Sherwood, OR brought the cultivar to the attention of Mr. Lloyd Baron, Washington County Agent, who subsequently increased the tree by grafting. In 1970, Ennis entered USDA/AES replicated variety trials.

TREE AND BEARING CHARACTERISTICS

Young Ennis trees are semi-erect, but old trees are round-headed. Limb growth tends to be twiggy and more compact than that of Barcelona. Hardiness, vigor, transplanting survival and ease of propagation of Ennis have all been rated as good as or better than Barcelona. Ennis is not immune to the big bud mite, *Phytocoptella avellanae* Newkirk and Kiefer, but it appears to have some tolerance.

Ennis is a high-yielding cultivar and bears most of its nuts on small-sized folwer clusters occurring on catkin peduncles, in contrast to Barcelona, the nuts of which are borne on large-sized flower clusters occurring on vigorous stem growth. It has less of a tendency toward biennial bearing than has Barcelona. Ennis nuts mature slightly later than those of Barcelona. The nuts at maturity are enclosed in a very short husk and are free-husking. The Ennis peduncle is the shortest of any commercial culti-

[1]Contribution of Agricultural Research, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station, Oregon State University, Technical Paper No. 5157 of the latter.

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