

At this time, forty selections made in 1948 have been propagated for second test and further breeding. Several hundred seedlings of fall-bearing parents will bear their first fall crop in 1949. Another lot of seedlings of similar breeding will be grown during the spring of 1949. The material now on

hand, or on the way, should provide better fall-bearing varieties than any now known. The ultimate object of this program is a series of two-crop raspberries whose fruit are suitable for market or home use and whose plants are resistant to mosaic disease.



The Van Cherry

By A. J. Mann and F. W. L. Keane

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In 1936 a cherry breeding project was started at the Summerland Experimental Station with the object of originating new varieties of black cherries which would have the firmness and high dessert quality of Bing and Lambert, combined with resistance to cracking of the fruit in rainy weather. It was also desired to obtain varieties which would be inter-fertile with Bing and Lambert.

Van Cherry, One in a Thousand

The Van cherry is at present the most promising of over a thousand seedlings which have been brought to fruiting age. It is an open-pollinated seedling of Empress Eugenie, an old French variety classified as a Duke or semi-sour cherry. The tree of Empress Eugenie from which the seeds were collected was located in an orchard

where Bing, Lambert, Royal Ann and several other varieties of sweet cherry were planted. The original Van tree was planted in 1939, was selected as promising in 1942, and in 1943 was named in honour of J. R. Van Haarlem, Pomologist at the Horticultural Experiment Station, Vineland, Ontario. The variety was introduced in 1944.

The original tree is of good size for its age, vigorous, of upright growth, and has been a heavy annual bearer. The fruit sets thickly and is well distributed on the limbs, with heavy clusters on the younger wood. The fruit stem is shorter than that of Bing or Lambert.

**Fruit Large, Attractive, and
High Quality**

Van is a black cherry of Bing type. The fruit is about as large as Bing, slightly firmer, quite as good in quality

and more sprightly. It is outstandingly attractive, with a very bright lustre. It has good handling characteristics and retains its lustre and firmness well after picking. Van is somewhat resistant to cracking of the fruit, being superior to Bing in this respect. In picking season, Van is slightly earlier than Bing.

In four years' trials, Van has shown itself to be inter-fertile with both Bing and Lambert. In addition, two years' trials indicate that Van is successfully pollinized by Deacon and by Royal Ann. Pollination tests indicate that Van is self-sterile.

Van is considered promising, both from a marketing standpoint and as a pollinizer for Big and Lambert, and it is being planted for extended commercial trial in the cherry districts of British Columbia.

At the present time budwood of Van is not available from the Summerland Experimental Station, but trees of the



The Van cherry is a black cherry of the Bing type but is slightly firmer and somewhat more resistant to cracking if wet weather occurs during the ripening period.

variety are being propagated by several nurserymen in British Columbia.



NATIVE PERSIMMONS IN NEW YORK

By George L. Slate

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The Garretson variety of the native persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*, is growing and fruiting satisfactorily at Geneva, N. Y. Heavy crops have been produced and ripened during late October and early November. Two seedlings also have ripened. Early Golden matures at Ithaca, N. Y.

Transplanted trees, except small seedlings from pots, often winter kill because they make weak growth the first year. When winter-protected with corn stalks and waterproof paper the first year or two, the trees will stand Geneva winters thereafter, even 18°F. below zero.

The writer is interested in learning of other very early-ripening, desirable native persimmons.