

The Star Cherry

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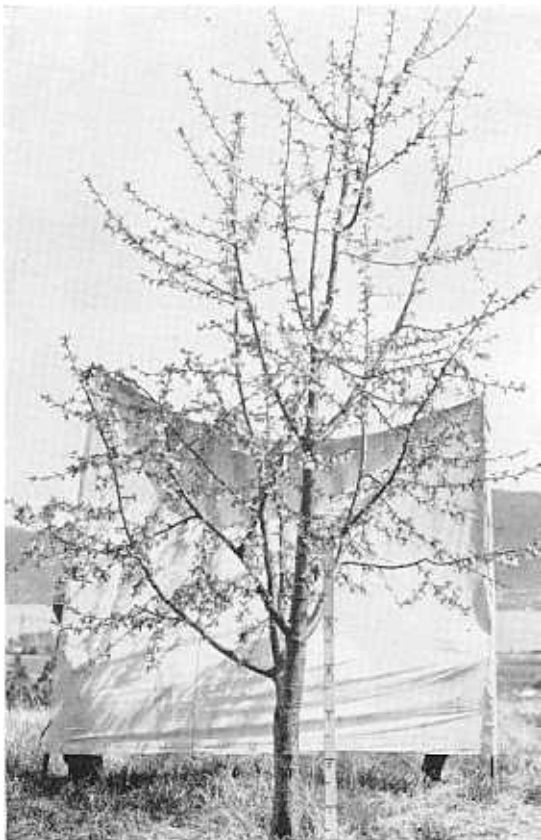
In the issue of "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest" for Spring, 1949, we introduced the Van cherry to the American Pomological Society. In this issue we are happy to introduce the Star cherry. Like Van, the Star cherry resulted from a breeding project which was started at the Summerland Experimental Station with the object of originating promising new varieties of black cherries with the firmness and high quality of Bing and Lambert.

The main reason for introducing this cherry to the fruit industry is that it appears to have the good qualities of Bing but to be earlier than that variety by at least a week. This earliness should spread the risk of cracking by rain, assist the labor problem by spreading the picking season, and make cherries of Bing type available to the market at an earlier date.

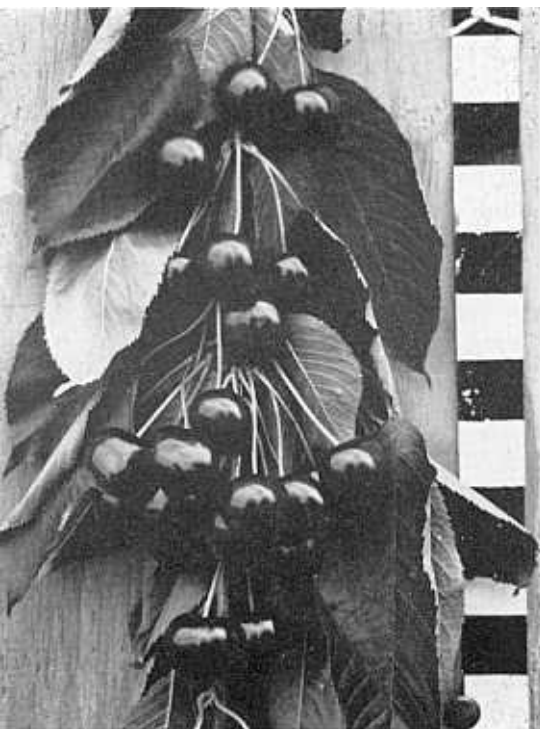
Origin.—Star is an open-pollinated seedling of Deacon, the seed having been collected and sown in 1936 by A. J. Mann. The original tree was planted in the spring of 1939. The selection was made in 1944, and the variety was named in January 1949. As yet the original tree is the only one which has reached bearing age. However, the performance of this tree has been so promising that it has been decided to introduce the variety for limited trial in commercial orchards.

Tree.—The original tree has been a

moderately heavy and a consistent annual bearer. This tree is of moderate size, but is located on light, sandy soil and its water supply has sometimes been inadequate. It is healthy and reasonably vigorous. It has proved hardy at the Summerland Experimental Station during one moderately severe winter. The fruit sets thickly enough to give a



At 10-years of age in the spring of 1949 when the above picture was taken, this Star cherry tree was 19 feet tall, with a spread of 14 feet, and a trunk circumference of 22 inches at one foot from the ground.



Fruit of the Star sweet cherry

full crop, but not so thickly as to reduce fruit size.

Fruit.—Star is a black cherry, somewhat of Lambert shape. Indications are that it is of similar size, firmness and

quality to Bing, and also that it is somewhat similar in its susceptibility to cracking. It attains a very attractive, deep, rich, dark red color, merging into black and the juice is also a very dark red.

Pollination.—Three years' tests indicate that Star is inter-fertile with Van, but it appears to be unsuitable as a pollinizer for Bing or Lambert and not to be satisfactorily pollinized by those varieties.

Commercial status.—Only time and experience will determine the commercial value of this new cherry, but the evidence available to date indicates that it is worthy of trial by growers who are interested in producing a high quality black cherry ripening about a week earlier than Bing.

At the present time budwood of Star is not available from the Summerland Experimental Station, but trees of the variety are being propagated by several nurserymen in British Columbia. Growers who may consider planting Star for trial are reminded that sufficient trees of Van cherry should be grown with the Star to ensure good pollination.



RED STELE DISEASE OF STRAWBERRIES

In 1946 red stele disease caused much damage to the strawberry planting on the Kentucky Experiment Station farm and seemed also to be spreading in

commercial areas. Blakemore, Premier, Catskill, Fairfax, Tennessee Shipper, Tennessee Beauty, Tennessee Supreme and Gandy were susceptible—all to about the same degree.

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