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'Yellow Transparent' Apple

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'Yellow Transparent' (also 'White Transparent') (1) is one of the most important summer cultivars in Europe, North America and Asia.

It is commonly grown throughout the Ohio basin and northcentral section of the United States (2). In the Soviet Union, in Germany, both Western and Eastern, as well as in many other European countries 'Yellow Transparent' is the most widely planted summer planted summer apple. In Finland, 'Yellow Transparent' accounts for 9% of all the apple trees (8). The distribution in vast territories of several continents is due to its wide range of adaptation to different climates, soils, and conditions.

The history of 'Yellow Transparent' appears to trace to the Baltic region, the part of the former Russian Empire. It was in 1852 that A. Leroy (3), the French nurseryman, imported a cultivar from the Wagner's nursery of Riga (now the capital of the Latvian S.S.R.). However, the concrete origin of the 'Yellow Transparent' is unknown. The first synonyms in France include also the name of 'Revel' ('Transparente Blanche et Pomme de Revel'), which is that of today's Tallinn, the capital of the Estonian S.S.R., also in the Baltic. Whatever its origin, the name is translated into most languages as 'White Transparent,' i.e. in French 'Transparente Blanche,' in German 'Weisser Klarapfel,' in Latvian 'Baltais Dzidrais,' and in Estonian 'Valge Klaaroun.'

The Russian cultivar 'Belyi Naliv' ('Naliv Belyi') appears to be very similar to 'Yellow Transparent' (7), yet another cultivar 'Papirovka' is accepted there. Differences in tree growth, its winter hardiness and fruit characters have been detected between these two cultivars. nevertheless, many Soviet horticulturists presume that 'Belyi Naliv' and 'Papirovka' are identical. But one authority on apples, A. Grebnitzkyi assured that 'Papirovka' is not identical to 'Belyi Naliv' (3) so 'Papirovka' apple matures earlier, its season is shorter, the size is larger, the flavor is better, but the tree is less winter-hardy than that of 'Belyi Naliv.' It seems that just 'Papirovka' (the 'Baltic Belyi Naliv') appears to be identical to 'Yellow Transparent.'

'Yellow Transparent' is a medium or fairly large, dual-purpose apple. It is harvested from the middle of July in Germany (4) and late July in England (1), and must be sold quickly, not to be stored. The fruit of 'Yellow Transparent' usually has a roundconical to tall-conical, almost oblong shape being variable. The skin is thin, tender, smooth, greenish-yellow, changing to attractive yellowish-white with numerous greenish and light-colored dots. The skin is without flush or stripes but sometimes with a few russet streaks in the cavity. The flesh is white, rather coarse-textured, juicy, sprightly, of medium acidity with pleasant but not high flavor (1)

The tree is moderately vigorous, upright, spreading.

The biggest weaknesses of 'Yellow Transparent' are its tendency to soften at the center quickly and biennial bearing tendency. Despite the fact that 'Yellow Transparent' was introduced

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almost 150 years ago, no other cultivar has yet replaced it as the dominant European summer cultivar.

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Cracking Resistance in Certain Cherry Cultivars and Selections

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A major problem in trying to grow good quality sweet cherries in regions where cool, damp summers are the rule (such as the Puget Sound region) is cracking of the fruits just before harvest. Cracking, caused by absorption of water through the skin of the ripening cherry, can damage some or even most of the fruits and allow the entry of fungus rots. Cracking and rot in combination can destroy the entire crop, given unfavorable weather conditions and a susceptible variety.

Fortunately, there are differences in the degree of resistance to cracking exhibited by different cherry cultivars. Cherry plantings at WSU's Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center, Mount Vernon, are regularly rated on the amount of cracking exhibited by the fruit, and a summary of the ratings for 1986 appears in Table I. The rating was done on July 7, approximately in the middle of the cherry harvest period. Rainfall for June was typical of a normal year: a total of 2.12 inches of precipitation, most of it coming in three periods on June 14 (0.55), June 17-18 (0.93), and June 28-29 (0.46). Additional rainfall of July 1-3 (0.90) occurred shortly before the ratings were taken and brought the June 1-July 7 total to 3.02 inches.

It should be noted that two very early-ripening cultivars, 'Early Burlat' and 'Moreau,' had no fruit left on the tree when ratings were taken. 'Early Burlat' has a very low rate of cracking, and 'Moreau,' though somewhat firmer-fleshed, rarely has more than 15% cracked fruit. Bird damage is the chief threat to these early cultivars.

Tart cherries generally have very low rates of cracking, though 'Kansas Sweet' (a duke cherry) is considerably more susceptible to this problem than most others (e.g. 'Schatten Morelle').

Among the sweet cherry cultivars, those with 20% or fewer cracked fruits can be characterized as "cracking resistant." Even those with cracking rates up to 40%, which includes several high

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