

Book Review

Vishnya (Sour Cherry), 1986, by Adelina F. Kolesnikova, Aleksei I. Kolesnidov and Viktor G. Mukhanin, published by Agropromizdat, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Written in the Russian language, this 238-page text, illustrated with 14 colored photographs and 15 figures, is a book of a high standard by three knowledgeable authors with over 30 years of research.

The issue is treated in a current context and divided into ten chapters: 1) Foreword; 2) Botanical classification and characterization of the main species; 3) Specific morphological and biological features of sour cherry; 4) Cultivars; 5) Breeding; 6) Propagation; 7) Establishing of cherry planting; 8) Cultural practices in the fruit-bearing orchard; 9) Harvesting; 10) Control of insects and diseases. A 23 page appendix includes detailed instructions for different operations in establishing of plantings, fertilizing, soil management, pruning, harvesting, insect and disease control. The list of references, 38 sources, is compiled from reports in Russian.

The characterizing of 81 cultivars including more than 50 new ones which have most recently been released, and the survey on sour cherry breeding programs in the Soviet Union will capture the main interest of the western researchers. In *Fruit Varieties Journal* Vol. 38, 3, 1984, information is given on the sour cherry breeding in Eastern Europe (Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Poland) by A. F.

Iezzoni, but nothing is said about the breeding programs in the Soviet Union.

Each of the cultivars is described at its origin with the parents given, if known. Information is given on fruit characteristics, plant habitat and productiveness, winter hardiness, pest and disease resistance.

Over the centuries, superior trees were propagated by suckers and local cultivars were established among these strains. Some old Russian cultivars, for example 'Vladimirskaya,' are being used in western breeding programs. Of new ones very few cultivars, such as 'Zhukovskaya,' are known to western fruit growers. One of the best of the new cultivars 'Turgenevka' is a seedling from open pollinated seeds of 'Zhukovskaya.'

Prunus fruticosa, *P. tomentosa* and *P. besseyi* have been utilized in breeding cherries for severe climates of Siberia and other regions. Efforts have been made to reduce the size of mature sour cherry trees.

The present book is a cherished addition to the literature on the newest sour cherry cultivars on very vast territory.

I'd like to add that yet another interesting book 'Uluchenije sortimenta vishni putyem klonovogo otbora' (Improving sour cherry through clonal selection) has been published also in 1986 by the same leading scientist, Adelina F. Kolesnikova (Priokskoje Knizhnoje Izdatelstvo Publishers, Tula, U.S.S.R., 120 pp.).

Dr. K. Kask, Polli Katsebass, Nuija, Eesti NSV, 202944 U.S.S.R.