Canada because they give a long harvest season in which growers can compete with imports from California. Also, they can be used in severe frost prone areas of the Prairie provinces as an annual crop. Until new day-neutral cultivars are introduced, 'Hecker' in western Canada and 'Tribute' and 'Tristar' in central and eastern Canada will increase in acreage as planting stock becomes available.

Canada is fortunate that there are two active breeding programs in Nova Scotia and Ontario with a third just starting in Quebec. These programs are producing and will continue to produce improved cultivars for the strawberry industry. These, together with new cultivars from USDA in Maryland and University of Minnesota will shape the future of the strawberry industry not only in eastern Canada but throughout the northern and eastern parts of the U.S.A.

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Kateru: A Late Ripening Himalayan Wild Peach

C. PARMAR[1]

Many forms of peach are found growing wild in the mid-Himalayan region of the north west India. One of these forms is *KATERU*, which is sometimes also called *KATAKI ARU*. The most distinguishing feature of this form is the very late ripening of its fruit. The name *KATAKI ARU* literally means the *ARU* (peach) of the *KATAK* month of the Indian calendar which synchronizes with October of the Christian calendar. The fruits of this form start ripening from the middle of September and continue to do so till the end of October depending upon altitude.

The extent of late ripening trait can be judged from the fact that the harvesting season of commercial cultivar 'July Elberta' starts in this region from the 1st of July. The fruits of this wild peach start maturing from the middle of September. *KATERU* therefore ripens at least two months after the normal peaches.

Origin

The trees of *KATERU* have been found growing wild in large numbers in Shimla, Solan and Sirmur districts of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh (2). There are no reports about the origin or distribution of *KATERU* in other parts of India. It is presumed that this peach must be existing in other parts of the western Himalayas but has not been reported probably due to the reason that no importance is attached to it from commercial point of view.

The fruits of *KATERU* are eaten by the village folks. Although they do not taste as good as those of the cultivated types, they are reported to be more nutritive than the cultivated types (2). The seedlings of this wild peach are used as rootstock for raising new peach grafts.

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The plant is also reported to contain a large number of medicinal properties (1). An oil is also extracted from the kernels of this peach which resembles the oil from bitter almonds (4).

Description

A medium sized deciduous woody tree, 6 to 8.5 metres high; branches, slender; bark varying from brown to black; thin bark can be peeled off in a circular patches by hand exposing the dark surface underneath; the girth of main stem is 71.5 cm.

Leaves, broadly lanceolate, coarsely serrated, long pointed, 9.5 cm long and 3.5 cm broad: petiole, 5 mm long.

Flowers, solitary, sessile, ebracteate, hermophrodite, complete, actinomorphic, pentamerous, perigynous, Rhodamine purple 29/3 of the Royal Horticultural Society Horticultural Colour Chart (3); diameter, 3.1 cm; calyx, gamosepalous, five lobed, sepaloid, more or less pubescent from outside; corolla polypetalous having five petals, regular, orbicular, clawed, 1.6 cm long; aestivation, imbricate; androecium, polyandrous, numerous (stamens 35-40), bithecus, dorsifixed, regular, free at the base, 1.3 cm long; gynoecium, monocarpellary, unilocular, periogynous, 1.5 cm long; placentation, basal.

Fruit, a drupe, short stalked, with free stone, soft and pubescent at maturity, globular to oval, having a prominent suture all around the fruit; length, 4.5 cm; weight 35.5 gm; volume, 35.1 ml; almost green, turning yellow at maturity; flesh yellow or greenish yellow.

Moisture, 6.1 per cent; TSS, 16.1 per cent; acidity, 1.71 per cent; overall fruit quality, fair to poor; general appearance, not very attractive.

Average yield, 36.5 kg per tree.

Suggested Use

This peach may be used in hybridization programmes for evolving a late variety. Besides being a very late ripening peach, *KATERU* is also a very hardy plant. It grows wild without any care on very poor soils. This trait of *KATERU* may also be useful.

Availability

Small quantities of seed for trial purposes can be obtained from the author by writing to him at his permanent address, Sharda Niwas, Dhobighat Road, Solan, H.P., 173 212, India.

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The Pacific Northwest Fruit Tester's Association

Organized in 1986 by a group of fruit growers interested in pursuing the evaluation of the many new apple varieties being promoted.

The original thirty members agreed to share their evaluation observations by having their secretary summarize each member's annual report and publish their findings in quarterly newsletters.

This has given the needed information to develop a memory bank of variety profile data sheets. Over thirty varieties have been written with fruit and tree descriptions, commercial status, availability and, most important, grower opinions which help in revealing the true characteristics of the variety. These profile sheets are up-dated and published annually. Unlike much promotional literature we now have variety write-ups which give both the positive and negative factors.

Today, the time is ripe for the organization of growers to develop tester's associations because there are so many new varieties being introduced. The world of fruit growing is getting much more sophisticated. The search for new and better varieties is no longer confined to the testing of chance seedlings. Over a dozen breeding programs in all the major apple production zones of the world are now turning out one or two new varieties annually. Records show that Japan alone has introduced fifty-five apple varieties since 1960. Impressive new varieties are showing up every year from New Zealand, Australia, France, Switzerland, England and Canada. This parade of new cultivars has been never-ending since Alexander the Great brought back to Greece new found varieties over 2,000 years ago. The acceleration of this parade is making it more confusing for growers to choose the most profitable variety to plant. To join contact:

The Pacific Northwest Fruit Tester's
1101 West Orchard Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. L. D. Tukey, Business Manager. September 29, 1988.