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'Earlysweet' Black Raspberry

GENE J. GALLETTA, JOHN L. MAAS, AND JOHN M. ENNS

Index words: *Rubus* breeding.

Earlysweet' is a vigorous, flavorful, early maturing black raspberry released by the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1996. 'Earlysweet' is the first commercial hybrid to contain germplasm from the eastern and western United States black raspberry species *Rubus occidentalis* L. and *R. leucodermis* Dougl., respectively. 'Earlysweet', tested as US 1631, was selected by G. J. Galletta at Beltsville, Maryland in 1983 from a progeny of Oregon-US 1725 ('Haut' x *Rubus leucodermis*) open pollinated seed collected for the USDA at Corvallis, Oregon, by H. J. Swartz in 1980. ORUS 1725 was a superior black raspberry selection bred by F. J. Lawrence of the USDA at Corvallis.

Earlysweet' has been tested in a number of locations in Beltsville, and has proven to be hardy, regular bearing, vigorous, attractive, condensed in ripening season, productive and flavorful. 'Earlysweet' is semi-erect and crown forming in habit. All canes are heavily armed, the prickles being numerous and pointing down at a 45° angle. Primocanes are glaucous and green, floricanes are a deep purple-brown, and laterals are medium green. The floricanes bear 10 to 12 fruit in compact clusters (Fig. 1) along the apical two to four nodes of lateral branches. The berries are round conic in shape with thick drupelets, and are firm and sweet and medium to large in size. 'Earlysweet' is usually among the first raspberries to ripen at Beltsville; the tendency for early ripening is commonly seen in *R. leucodermis* derivatives. In unreplicated observation plantings, 'Earlysweet' was as productive or more so than standard black raspberry cultivars. Plants of 'Earlysweet' have not shown symptoms of disease during their evaluation period. 'Earlysweet' was released to nurseries in 1996, and it is expected to be well adapted to the Mid-Atlantic and adjoining regions and to the Pacific Northwest.

Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge Harry Jan Swartz, University of Maryland, College Park, whose seed collecting in Corvallis, Oregon, resulted in the selection and introduction of the 'Earlysweet' black raspberry.

Availability

'Earlysweet' has not been patented. The USDA does not have plants of 'Earlysweet' for general distribution. Contact J. L. Maas, USDA/ARS, Fruit Laboratory, 10300 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705, for nursery plant sources.

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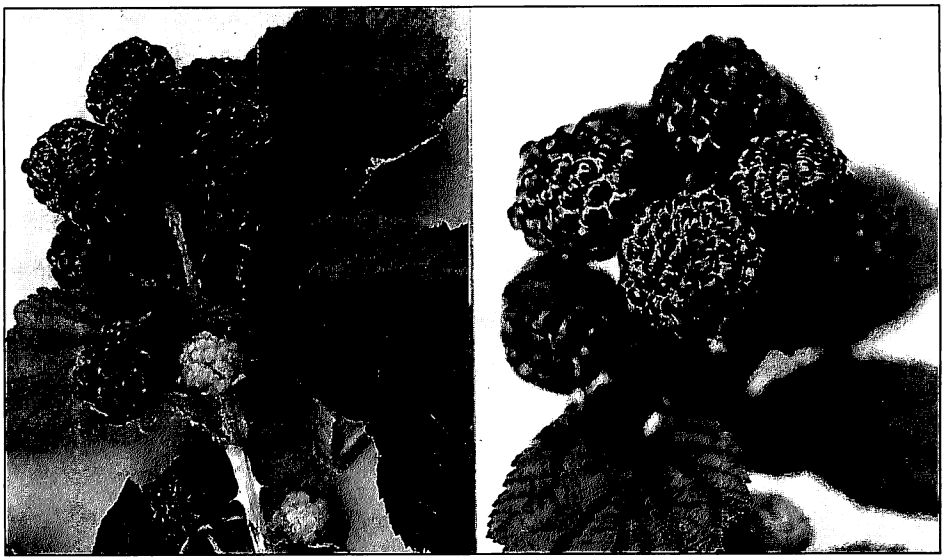


Figure 1. Fruit of 'Earlysweet' black raspberry, Beltsville, Maryland, 1996.

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'Triple Crown' Thornless Blackberry

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'Triple Crown' is a midsummer-ripening tetraploid thornless blackberry cultivar [*Rubus* sp., subgenus *Rubus* (*Eubatus*)] suitable for fresh or processed use developed and released by the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 'Triple Crown, tested as US 1638, was selected in 1983 at Beltsville, Maryland by G. J. Galletta from his 1980 cross of SIUS 68-2-5 (=C-47) x Arkansas 545 ('Darrow' x 'Brazos') (Fig. 1). SIUS 68-2-5 ('Black Satin' x SIUS 64-21-4) is a thornless selection bred by the late Dr. "Jack" Hull of the USDA. SIUS 64-21-4 is a full sibling of 'Hull Thornless' (1), 'Black Satin,' 'Dirksen Thornless,' and 'Chester Thornless' blackberries. 'Triple Crown' has grown and fruited well in several locations in Beltsville from 1985 through 1995, and also at Corvallis, Oregon, where 7-year-old plants yielded an average of 14.7 kg per plant in 1995 (C. Finn, unpublished data). 'Triple Crown' was named for its three crowning attributes: high vigor in a thornless plant, high productivity, and improved fruit sweetness and aroma. Coupled with its improved fruit display habit, this was enough to suggest that this selection might compare with the winner of the Triple Crown of horse racing. 'Triple Crown' was released to nurseries in 1996.

Triple Crown' is a vigorous, crown-forming plant which bears numerous

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