

Highbush Blueberry Crops in a Trial in Norway, 1988-1998

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Black Currant Cultivars Newly Released from the U. S. National Quarantine

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Abstract

Eighteen disease-tested, black currant cultivars (*Ribes nigrum* L.) and one jostaberry (*R. x nidigrolaria* Bauer) were released in December 1998 from the U. S. National Plant Germplasm Quarantine Office (NPGQO) in Beltsville, Maryland. These cultivars were received at the quarantine office between 1989 and 1993 from collaborators in Poland, Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Foreign *Ribes* from Europe are prohibited to enter the United States except when processed through this quarantine facility. These 19 cultivars passed the rigorous Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) testing protocol and were released to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) in Corvallis, Oregon, for long term preservation in their *Ribes* collection. Plant material can be requested for research and evaluation by contacting the Curator at the Corvallis Repository.

Introduction

A number of exotic diseases and pests are present in foreign *Ribes* L. currants and gooseberries. Some diseases, such as reversion, which seems to be caused by blackcurrant reversion-associated virus BRAV (4) are present throughout the black currant production regions in Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, but are not found in North America. This disease is vectored by the black currant gall mite (*Cecidophyopsis ribis* Westw.) which is also not found in North America. Several European nepoviruses, which are spread by nematodes (*Xiphinema* spp. and *Longi-*

dorus spp.), are also not known here (1). To keep economically significant pests and diseases from naturalizing in this country, APHIS (2) has issued foreign quarantine notices pursuant to federal law. These regulations prohibit the direct entry of *Ribes* plants or plant parts into the United States except via quarantine. *Ribes* can be admitted through the NPGQO in Beltsville, Md., where a rigorous set of virus testing procedures is conducted. Infected plants are destroyed, but disease free material can enter the country. The U. S. National Plant Germplasm System has assigned the preservation, distribution and

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Table 1. Black currant, *Ribes nigrum*, cultivars, with NCGR-Corvallis *Ribes* (CRIB) and quarantine (Q) numbers, released by the U. S. National Plant Germplasm Quarantine Office, Beltsville, Md., in 1998. Plant material can be requested from the curator at the NCGR-Corvallis.

Cultivar name	CRIB (Q no.)	Year received in quarantine	Source country	Country of origin (year introduced)
Beauty of Altay	1175 (28607)	1991	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
Belorusskaya Sweet = Beloruskaja slodkaya	1178 (28850)	1991	Russian Federation	Belarus (1967)
Ben Tirran (U.S. Plant Patent pend.)	1172 (28026)	1990	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (1989)
Blacksmith	1165 (27859)	1990	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (early 1920's)
Boskoop Giant	1166 (27862)	1990	United Kingdom	The Netherlands (1885)
Climax	1167(27866)	1990	United Kingdom	Canada (1895)
Coronet	1168 (27868)	1990	United Kingdom	Canada (1948)
Crusader	1169 (27871)	1990	United Kingdom	Canada (1948)
Czerniega	1181 (35889)	1993	Poland	Ukraine (<1995)
Dobraya	1179 (30857)	1993	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
Favorskaya = Buraya Favorskoj	1177 (28612)	1991	Russian Federation	Russian Federation (<1986)
Hietala	1180 (30862)	1993	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
Jogrande = Jostaki ¹ (US Plant Patent 5,918)	1182 (28403)	1991	Switzerland	Germany (1987)
Laxon's Giant	1164 (27847)	1989	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (late 1920's)
Leningrad Giant= Leningradskij Velikan	1174 (28606)	1991	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
Silbergieters Zwarte	1170 (27929)	1990	United Kingdom	Germany (1936)
Stella I	1171 (27933)	1990	United Kingdom	Sweden (<1976)
Triton (Swedish Plant Breeder's Rights)	1176 (28609)	1991	Russian Federation	Sweden (1984)
Westwick Choice	1173 (28028)	1990	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (1913)

¹*R. x nidigrolaria* Bauer

evaluation of *Ribes* genetic resources to NCGR in Corvallis, Oregon.

Newly Released Black Currant Cultivars

In December 1998, the NPGQO released eighteen pathogen-tested foreign black currant cultivars and one jostaberry (Table 1) to domestic requestors in the United States. Propagules from these clones are being established at the NCGR in Corvallis, Oregon.

These clones have a range of origins though the source countries were European. The oldest black currant cultivar of the group, 'Climax,' was introduced by William Saunders in Ontario, Canada, in 1895. This cultivar has not been available in the United States, although it had been maintained by the National Fruit Trials of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust in Kent, England. The newer Russian cultivars 'Beauty of Altay,' 'Favorskaya,' 'Hietala,' 'Leningrad Giant' and 'Sobraya'; the Belarusian 'Belorusskaya Sweet'; and the Ukrainian 'Czerniega' are reportedly flavorful-fruited, cold hardy, with some resistance to American powdery mildew [*Sphaeroteca mors-uvae* (Schw.) Berk.] and white pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola* Fisch.) (3). 'Triton' was introduced by P. Tamas in Sweden in the early 1980's and is a sibling of the foliar-disease resistant high quality 'Titania.' Lastly, a black currant x gooseberry hybrid (*R. x nidigrolaria*), commonly referred to as a "jostaberry" cultivar, Jogranda (synonym = 'Jostaki') was released. This vigorous, disease-resistant thornless hybrid was crossed in Germany by Rudolf Bauer in 1959, selected in 1970 and introduced in 1987. It holds United States Plant Patent 5,918 and is now available to

American nurseryman and growers. Another jostaberry cultivar, 'Jostine' (Q 28401), is undergoing additional virus tests and, if tests are negative, will be released in September 1999. These will be exciting new additions that broaden the gene pool available within the United States. The NCGR is looking forward to evaluating these clones under Corvallis conditions.

Plant material of these newly quarantine-released cultivars (Table 1) is available for research and evaluation by contacting the Curator at the NCGR-Corvallis. Be aware that laws in fifteen states (Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia) continue to restrict or prohibit *Ribes* production because plants in this genus can be hosts of white pine blister rust fungus. State departments of agriculture or other appropriate agencies should be contacted for the latest within-state regulations.

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Root Pruning Cherry

Root pruning cherry seedlings prior to planting did not mitigate desiccation damage and severe pruning was highly injurious to subsequent growth. Generally the removal of fine roots was equivalent to a relatively short desiccation period but pruning fine roots prior to instead of after desiccation in *P. cerasifera* resulted in more lateral shoots. From Symeonidou and Buckley. 1999. *J. Hort. Sci. and Biotech* 74(3):386-394.