

Evaluation of Sweet Cherry Varieties and Selections in Oregon*

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Sweet cherries are one of our most attractive and delicious fruit crops. Some of this appeal arises because this crop is the earliest tree fruit to ripen. To qualify as a successful commercial sweet cherry, a new variety must meet many exacting requirements in the orchard as well as produce an attractive and flavorsome canned or brined product. Commercial varieties must consistently produce well, attain desirable size, color and flavor, be firm fleshed, and resist or partially resist cracking. In the processed product these fruit quality factors are equally important and to a large extent determine ultimately the acceptance of a variety by the industry.

At the Oregon Experiment Station, the Departments of Horticulture and Food and Dairy Technology have worked cooperatively for several years evaluating the merits of processed and fresh fruit of recent new varieties and selections. Several older varieties and certain European varieties were included in these trials for purposes of comparison. Data on these varieties are tabulated in Table 1. See opposite page.

Among the outstanding varieties in these tests for fresh use were Wills-Dallas, Dickson No. 270215, Esperens, R 22-10, Corum and Lambert. Varieties appearing most desirable for canning purposes included Noire de Guben, Noire de Chavannes, Corum, Royal Ann, Wills-Dallas, Sue, Persian, Dickson No. 270215, Van, R 22-10, Sam, Bing and Biggareau de Schrecken.

*A joint contribution from the Departments of Horticulture and Food and Dairy Technology, Oregon State College.

Flordagrand Blackberry

In 1953 R. H. Sharpe, of the University of Florida, made some crosses between the blackberry variety Regal Ness and a selection of *Rubus trivialis*, a trailing blackberry native to central Florida. A very promising high yielding second generation seedling from this cross was selected and recently introduced and named Flordagrand.

The new canes of Flordagrand are purplish-red, prickly, and long and prostrate unless supported. Its blossoms open earlier than local wild berries, and should therefore be planted only on frost free sites in northern Florida. The berries are oblong, shiny black and large—about $1\frac{1}{8}$ x $\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length and diameter. It is harvested several days before Advance and Regal Ness. The berries are tart when eaten fresh, but are easily sweetened to taste. This variety makes very good jellies, preserves and pies.



C. J. Gilgut of the University of Massachusetts, points out that although no apple variety is immune to powdery mildew some are more resistant than others. Varieties that are relatively resistant include McIntosh, Delicious and Golden Delicious. Very susceptible varieties are Baldwin, Cortland, Rome Beauty, Jonathan, Stayman, and Yellow Transparent.