

Three New Sweet Cherry Varieties from Canada

G. H. DICKSON*

Vineland Station, Canada

Sweet cherry breeding at the Ontario Horticultural Experiment Station was begun in 1915. Three varieties were introduced earlier—Victor in 1925, Vernon and Velvet in 1937.

In the Niagara Peninsula (Ontario) Victor is becoming the leading white variety. Vernon is regarded as one of the most profitable varieties in its season. Velvet, unfortunately, although very productive in the original tests, has not lived up to expectations. In most orchards it has been a shy bearer.

In 1953 five seedling selections were distributed to growers for trial through one of the local nurseries. Reports from these growers, together with continued good orchard performance at Vineland indicate that three of them merit official release. A fourth (27021) has also shown promise, but as no virus-free stock is available it is not being considered at present. The fifth (350418) was primarily distributed because of its freezing qualities and is of limited value. Two other selections, 35038 and 350427, not on the 1953 release list, are also proving of interest and warrant further observation. The three being named are 35031, 35042, and 27026. The names and a brief description follows:

Vista (35031) A Hedelfingen x Victor seedling maturing about with Black Tartarian. It is a large dark, firm cherry with a very attractive finish. Some cracking has occurred, but in spite of it, growers have given Vista a high rating because of appearance, size, and season.

Venus (35042) A Hedelfingen x Windsor seedling to follow Vista by

about five days. It is a large shiny black of high quality. It is not as firm as Vista and therefore not as subject to cracking. In heavy-crop years, in the Station orchard, it has shown a tendency to overset with a consequent reduction in fruit size. However, under normal conditions for pollination this should not occur often.

Vic (27026) A seedling of Bing x Schmidt maturing with Windsor, but of better size and darker color. It is of good quality. In canning tests it has proven to be superior to Windsor, and is satisfactory for freezing and maraschino purposes. The trees are large and have always been consistently heavy bearers.

Most Ontario nurseries list these selections under number. Until they become familiar with the above names, it is desirable to list the number as well as the name when ordering trees.



Two of our readers have requested information on sources of either trees or scionwood of the apple varieties Haas, Scollop Gilliflower and Almate. It would be appreciated if anyone knowing of such sources would drop us a note.—Editor

DWARF APPLE TREES

Will grow on contract
any varieties on EM II and EM VII.
Will furnish budwood or use yours.

GRAY STONE NURSERY

Lochapoka, Ala.

*Horticulturist, Horticultural Experiment Station, Ontario, Canada.