

STRAWBERRY VARIETY TRIALS IN PENNSYLVANIA

yielded heavily from a good matted row, the berries were large but rough, very soft and inferior in flavor.

Empire (N. Y. 25460), maturing with Sparkle, produced firm, large bright red

berries, high in quality. Promising for commercial planting.

Erie (N. Y. 28340) was similar to Empire, with attractive medium red berries, but only fair in quality.

The Meteor Cherry

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station introduced the Meteor, red tart cherry, in December, 1952. It is a cross between Montmorency and a very hardy, small-fruited, medium dark red, unnamed cherry obtained from the Dominion of Canada Agricultural Experiment Station, Morden, Manitoba. This new variety, together with Northstar, introduced in 1950, make cherry growing possible in Minnesota and other northern regions. Meteor is similar to Montmorency in size, appearance, and quality, and ripens about a week after Northstar.

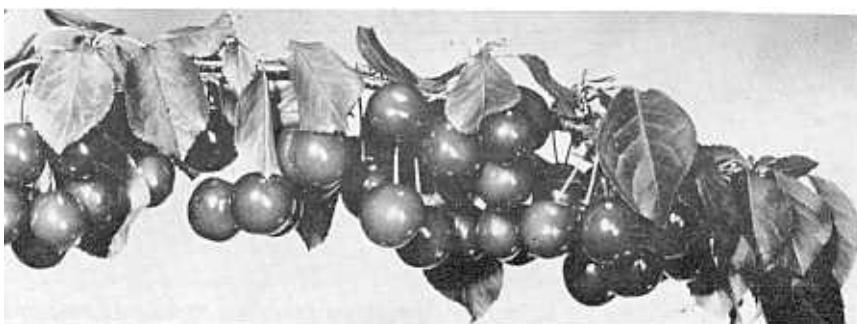
Meteor was selected by W. R. Leslie, superintendent of the station, from seedlings grown from seed he obtained from A. P. Stevenson of Morden. Mr. Stevenson had been growing seedlings from the Russian varieties Vladimir and Shubianca. Thus the male parent of Meteor had been developed by selection from Russian strains and probably represented one of the most hardy sources of red tart cherry available to American fruit breeders.

The first fruit were obtained from Meteor in 1944, and since then this

new variety has never failed to set a heavy crop. It carried a full crop in 1948 when the fruit buds of nearly all other cherry selections were severely injured. In 1952, the Meteor trees produced half of a crop following a winter which resulted in very severe injury to fruit buds of many stone fruits.

The tree of Meteor is strong, vigorous, upright and moderately spreading. Its leaves are unusually large, highly resistant to leaf spot, and form a dense luxuriant canopy.

Its fruit are large to very large, blocky roundish-oval, flattened at the ends, apex is slightly depressed; cavity is of medium size; suture is a faint line; stem is medium in length and thickness. The color of the fruit is a very attractive clear, light, bright red; the skin is thin and tender. The flesh is light, bright yellow, medium firm and medium juicy. Flavor of the fruit is pleasant, mildly acid, and very good in quality. The stone is small, long oval, and very free. Meteor ripens about a week to ten days later than Northstar or about midseason in relation to standard varieties of red tart cherries.—G.M.K.



The Meteor Cherry

Courtesy of Andrews Nursery Co., Minn.