

normal, and partly what appeared to be complete color changes to a darker red color.

The actual occurrence of these X-ray-induced bud sports, and the fact that in some cases, sections of the shoot growth developed from a mutated sector of the apical meristem in such a way that complete sports were produced, are results that are of real value to the apple breeder. Very frequently seedling apples are found which produce top quality fruits that are highly desirable as new commercial varieties except for the fact that they lack color and attractiveness. Now, it may be possible through the use of artificial radiation to obtain color sports without having to wait for one to occur naturally—something which may not be discovered until a variety has been propagated in large numbers.

It should also be possible to reduce the color of some of the darker colored varieties, thus making them brighter in appearance and more acceptable to the consumer. In a similar way, it is theoretically possible to reduce or increase the amount of russetting of the skin, though no definite indications have yet been obtained on this point in the work at Kentville. The increasing popularity of the Russet Bartlett pear would suggest the practical importance of this character in that tree fruit.

Furthermore, it is quite possible that other less obvious characters such as the waxiness of the skin, the acidity of the fruit, season of ripening, disease resistance, self-sterility, and fruit size may be altered as a result of the X-ray treatment. No careful study of these characters in apples from the irradiated scions has yet been made.

Increasing attention is now being given by plant breeders to the possibilities offered by this technique, and the future years may prove it to be of considerable practical importance and

a means of shaping new fruits to fit our increasingly exacting specifications.

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Sweet Cherries in Canada

On the basis of performance at the Summerland Experimental Station, British Columbia, Canada, the Schmidt sweet cherry has been found to be inferior in size and quality to Bing, Star and Van.

Comparing Van with Schmidt, the fruit of these two varieties are similar in firmness. Schmidt is about a week earlier. Van is somewhat superior in size, much superior in quality, and is more resistant to cracking.

Vernon has proved too soft, and very susceptible to cracking. Its quality and firmness has varied from year to year. It also tends to drop some of its fruit prematurely, sometimes reducing the crop materially.—A. J. MANN, *Experimental Station, Summerland, B. C., Canada*

Readers:

I want to call your attention to the fact that for \$3.00 more per year than you are now paying for the DIGEST you may obtain a membership in the American Pomological Society, which includes the Proceedings of the Society's annual meeting and a subscription to the American Fruit Grower, as well as to the DIGEST.—G. M. KESSLER, *Editor*