

The Sue Cherry

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Sweet cherry breeding at the Summerland Experimental Station has hitherto stressed varieties of "black" type, since the so-called white cherries have very limited market value in this region. The Station has already reported the introduction of three black varieties, Van, Star, and Sam, and these are now being planted commercially throughout the Pacific Northwest.

In the course of cherry breeding, however, a white variety has emerged which is so outstanding in its resistance to cracking that it has been deemed advisable to name and introduce it. This cherry, under the name Sue, is

particularly recommended for use in the home garden, but is also suggested for limited commercial trial by growers interested in cherries of Napoleon type.

Origin: Sue is a cross of Bing x Schmidt. The cross was made in 1936, (A. J. Mann), the original tree was planted in the spring of 1939 and the selection was made in 1946, (A. J. Mann). Following this selection the seedling was further tested for eight years and continued promising. Sue was named and introduced in August, 1954.

Tree: The tree is vigorous, upright and moderately compact, with rather dense foliage. It bears heavily and the fruit is well distributed on the limbs. In tree, in bud and in blossom, Sue appears to be at least as hardy as Napoleon.

Fruit: Sue is about a week earlier in season than Napoleon and in general appearance resembles that variety. The ground color is yellow with an attractive bright red blush, and the juice is colorless. The fruit is roundish-conic and above medium size. In comparison with Napoleon, Sue is sometimes not quite as large, but is of higher quality and almost as firm. Six years' tests, both in the orchard and in the laboratory, have consistently shown that Sue possesses an outstanding degree of resistance to cracking. In this respect it is far superior to any other variety, white or black, tested at the Station. Sue appears comparable to Napoleon in canning characteristics.

Pollination: Sue appears to be practically self-sterile and cross-pollination is necessary. It has been successfully

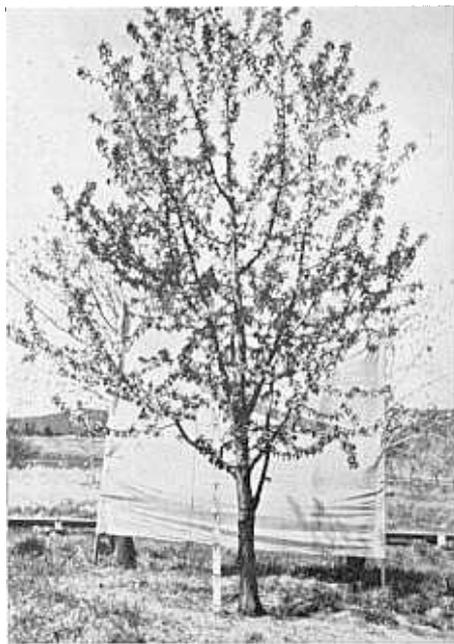


FIG. 1. The original tree of the Sue cherry in blossom, ten years after planting.

pollinized by Bing, Lambert, Star and Van (all one year tests), and by Napoleon, (two year tests). In one year's test it has been a successful pollinizer for Bing and Lambert, but in two year tests on Napoleon the results have been variable.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Sue can be distinguished from Napoleon by its earlier season of maturity and by its sweeter flavor. In foliage characteristics Sue differs from Napoleon in having longer and larger leaves, particularly on the terminal shoots, and in having a more pointed leaf tip. The pits of Sue are smaller than those of Napoleon, have a narrower ventral

suture and are less ridged at the base.

Reasons for Introduction: Sue was introduced primarily for its outstanding resistance to cracking and for its high quality. Its earliness may also be an advantage.

Propagation Rights and Distribution: Sue is not patented or trademarked and its propagation is not restricted in any way. Consequently, nurserymen are free to use this name on their labels and in their catalogues. 1980 buds have been distributed to 22 nurseries in British Columbia and Washington, as well as to the Horticultural Experiment Station, Vine-land, Ontario.

Peach Varieties

Redskin has never failed to make a good crop for us in South Carolina and it is very well received by the consumer. One fruit processor in Georgia has already set several thousand trees of Redskin, the fruit of which is to be used for processing. He finds that his frozen pack of Elbertas browns even with ascorbic acid.

Redskin requires heavy thinning, and more cutting back in pruning than other varieties, due to its willow habit of growth.

Southland appears to be a very good substitute for Halehaven in the South. An equally good variety that resists bacteriosis is badly needed. Burbank Elberta and Sunhigh are two varieties that are very susceptible to this disease on light soils.

Sullivan Early Elberta performed well throughout the South in 1953. However, reports from Michigan and Canada were worse than usual.

It appears that each part of the country will have to prepare its own recommended list of peach varieties, as is done with the strawberry.—JOHN T. BREGGER, *Clemson, S. Carolina.*

Apple Varieties for Freezing

Thirty-four different apple varieties were recently compared for freezing quality at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, at Geneva. They were judged on the basis of 17 characteristics before and after processing. The varieties being tested were also made up into pies and judged by a taste panel. Reporting on this study, R. L. LaBelle says that Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Northern Spy, Jonathan, Winesap, Yellow Newtown were all rated very high, with Monroe being placed at the top. Rome Beauty, Ben Davis, McIntosh and Cortland were rated very low for processing.

The Okanoma Red Delicious, according to Bill Luce, in "Better Fruit", appears to be a heavier producer in the Pacific Northwest than the established strains of Delicious. In the Cameron orchard, near Donald, Washington, it has produced twice the yield of Starking, maintaining good size and color at the same time.