

Corum, A New Sweet Cherry for Oregon

QUENTIN B. ZIELINSKI*

Corvallis, Oregon

The Horticultural Department of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station is introducing the new Corum sweet cherry variety for Oregon and other areas, where there is a need for a superior sweet cherry which will ripen five to seven days before Royal Ann (Napoleon Bigarreau), and which will also function as a pollinizer variety. Corum, a chance seedling on the farm of Gordon Corum, Eugene, Oregon, was discovered in 1945. It was selected because of its excellent appearance, large size, fine quality, and firm-fleshed fruit. It ripens about a week before Royal Ann, with the varieties Sue, Venus and Victor.

The tree is healthy, very vigorous, upright, moderately compact, with rather dense foliage. The leaves are noticeably larger in size than most other cherry varieties. The sturdy limbs of the tree are strong, and form a desirable framework. Hardiness tests to date show it to be as hardy as Royal Ann and many other standard varieties.

The fruit sets heavily enough to produce a full commercial crop, but not so heavily as to reduce fruit size. Corum, resembles Royal Ann in general appearance. It is a so-called white cherry type, having a pale yellow ground color with an attractive bright red blush, and colorless juice. In shape, the fruit is roundish-conic, somewhat like Royal Ann and Lambert, above medium sized, very meaty, very firm, crisp and mild-flavored. The stone is slightly clinging as in Royal Ann, and small in proportion to the weight of the fruit. Corum rates very high in canning tests and

brining trials conducted by the Department of Food and Dairy Technology. It is moderately resistant to cracking, equalling Royal Ann and Lambert.

Corum can be distinguished from Royal Ann by its earlier ripening, and by its sweeter flavor. Corum leaves are longer and larger than those of Royal Ann, and the leaf tip is less pointed.

Like all sweet cherries so far tested, Corum is self-incompatible, and cross-pollination is necessary. It has been successfully pollinized by Bing, Lambert, Royal Ann, Sam, Van and Sue. In three year's tests it has been a successful pollinizer for Sue, Royal Ann, Bing, Victor, Deacon, Van, and Black Republican. In commercial orchard



Fig. 1. Fruit of Corum sweet cherry, selected for its high quality and earliness.

*Associate Professor of Horticulture, Oregon State College.

test plots it appears to be as useful a pollinizer as Van or Black Republican. The flowering period peaks two to three days before Royal Ann, but it has a longer blooming period than most other pollinizers including Black Republican.

The Corum cherry is being introduced because it is comparable in size, shape, appearance, and processing quality to the fruit of Royal Ann, but ripens five to seven days earlier. These characteristics are valuable in harvesting, marketing, and spreading the risks of damage from fruit cracking. Tests in Oregon indicate that Corum surpasses in quality all light-colored pollinizer varieties now available for commercial orchards in the United States.

Corum has been indexed as virus-free by the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. Sufficient bud-wood is available to fill requests from other experiment stations and bona-fide nurserymen. Commercial tree fruit nurserymen have developed virus-free mother trees for commercial budding purposes, and many have sufficient wood to sell to individual growers. Neither the Department of Horticulture nor the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station have Corum trees available for distribution.



Fairview Red Raspberry, A Variety For the Frozen Pack

The U.S.D.A. and the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station have just introduced a red raspberry variety, Fairview, formerly tested as U.S.-Oreg. 1022. This red raspberry variety originated as a seedling from the cross U.S.-Oreg. 782 × Washington made in 1945. It was selected in 1950, and has been tested in western Oregon and Washington.

Fairview is a mid-season variety. Its berries begin ripening along with Canby and Willamette, and continue for about one month. Berries are medium red and attractive. They are firm, but not so firm as Willamette. Flavor is very pleasing, being more intense and less acid than Willamette.

The plants grow vigorously on well drained soil and have outlived Willamette on heavy poorly drained soil. It is apparently winter hardy in western Oregon and Washington. Yields have been high due to a habit of producing berries on long fruiting laterals. Tests at Corvallis and Gresham, Oregon, have given yields 10 to 30 percent higher than Willamette, and Canby.

Fairview is being released as a productive red raspberry variety especially for the frozen pack. Its pleasing flavor and bright color make it especially attractive as a frozen berry in the retail package. It is not suitable for canning.

Neither the U.S.D.A. nor the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station has plants for distribution.



Observations by French Nurseryman

Aimé Lambertin, a nurseryman near Nîmes in southern France, stopped by for a visit this past summer. He says the French like a peach with much red skin color, but will accept less red, if the yellow ground color is attractive. The Cardinal peach is the best for its season in southern France. Redhaven is good; Royal Vee develops good red color, and is very promising.—Editor