The Lambert Compact Cherry

K. LAPINS*

A Lambert mutant with compact growth habit was introduced in 1964 for commercial trial.

Origin. The mutant was produced by irradiation of dormant scions of Lambert with x-rays.† The radiation treatment was done by the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, N.Y., U.S.A., in 1958. The selection for compact growth habit was made in the nursery in 1959. Trees of the selection planted in the orchard in 1960, and produced their first fruit in 1962. The selection was tested as Lambert, 2B-17-4, and was named in 1964.

Tree. The tree of Lambert Compact is small and compact. The growth is characterized by short internodes and closely spaced fruit spurs. The tree of the mutant is expected to attain about one-half the size of ordinary Lambert or even less (see Figure 1). The tree is spreading, with wide crotch angles, in contrast to the narrow crotches of the mother variety. The leaves of Lambert Compact are slightly smaller than those of ordinary Lambert, but leaf area per unit of shoot length is larger in the mutant.

Fruit. Lambert Compact comes into bearing very early and bears very heavily. The mutant blossoms 4 days later than ordinary Lambert and matures 2 to 5 days later. The fruit of Lambert Compact is almost identical to that of ordinary Lambert, except that the fruit stem is slightly shorter and thinner.

Pollination. Lambert Compact successfully interpollinizes with Van.

Recommendations. Lambert Compact is introduced for commercial trial because of its desirable growth and bearing habits. The tendancy of the mutant to overbear must be corrected by heavier than usual pruning. The recommended initial planting distances are 14′ x 14′ or 20′ x 10′; the final distance required might be 20′ x 20′.

Figure 1. Trees at the end of their second year in orchard: left—Lambert Compact, right — ordinary Lambert. Both photos taken from the same distance.

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†Lapins, K. 1963. Note on compact mutants of Lambert Cherry produced by ionizing radiation. Canadian Jour. Plant Sci. 43:424-425, 1963.

Grower Looks at Peach Variety Performance in Kentucky, 1964*

The year 1964 was a good one in which to take a look at old and new peach varieties in Henderson, Kentucky. There had been no crop in 1963. Winter injury had been light. Rainfall was adequate during the growing season, and evenly distributed. More sun than normal produced excellent color, and excellent eating quality and shelf-life. Temperatures averaged one degree above normal.

Weather conditions were unfavorable on two occasions. Smog conditions were noted July 21-29, when Fairhaven, Richhaven, Washington and Loring were ripening. Most of these varieties softened rapidly on and off the tree, with the exception of Loring, which packed 95% No. 1.

August 3 to 9 was an extremely dry, hot week. Of the varieties ripening in this period, Redskin was outstanding, with firm fruit and high color.

Let's take a quick look at some of the other varieties. Garnet Beauty (ripening June 24) looked promising. Early Sunhaven (July 1) was too soft. The old reliable Redhaven lived up to its fine reputation. Late Sunhaven (July 14) was larger and firmer than Redhaven, and remained firm on the tree 10 days after ripening. Golden Jubilee, in sod, colored poorly, softened and dropped. Nectared, in the same season, sized up well and was attractive. Fairhaven (July 20) lacked color. Richhaven (July 22) was too soft, as was Washington. As previously mentioned, Loring, in this season was tops. No other variety is in so much demand.

Sunhigh was large and attractive. Triogem was defoliated by bacterial spot. The white freestone nectarine, Redchief, made lots of friends. In early August Olinda, Merrill 49er and Blake showed good color and firmness, but also showed susceptibility to leaf spot. In this season the Nectacrest nectarine compared favorably with Redchief.

Jefferson, coming in with Redskin, was disappointing. Alberta again demonstrated that it should be discarded in this area. Four numbered California nectarines looked good. No. 4, which ripens with or slightly before Redskin has good life on the tree and on the shelf; but No. 3, ripening about a week before, may be the best of the lot.

*Adapted from a letter from Frank Street, of Henderson, Ky., to Stanley Johnson of Michigan State University. I'm sure Mr. Street will have no objections.—Editor.

Performance of Newer Apples in Massachusetts

W. D. Weeks, of the University of Massachusetts has made the following comments about some of the newer apple varieties as they have performed in his state:

Puritan—an attractive, large, red, early apple, that ripens before Early McIntosh. The trade likes it, but it is a little tart, and tree is biennial.

Wellington—a large fairly attractive apple that ripens with Melba. Has not been productive. Is primarily a processing apple. Foliage is susceptible to spray injury. Of doubtful value.

Spartan—An attractive, dark red apple, one week after McIntosh. Fruit has excellent dessert quality, but runs small.

Melrose—Dual-purpose variety three weeks after McIntosh. Attractive dark red fruit of excellent quality when well grown. Subject to russeting under some conditions.

Spencer: Attractive bright red, high quality late apple. May develop storage disorders. Probably most promising for the roadside stand.

Monroe—A bright red, fairly attractive, late maturing processing variety. Dessert quality fair to good. Foliage susceptible to powdery mildew.