

New Fruit Varieties From New York

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Ulster

The Ulster sweet cherry originated from the cross, Schmidt x Lambert, made in 1937. It was selected in 1947 from a population of 12 seedlings. Between 1952 and 1964 trees of it were sold by the New York State Fruit Testing Association, Geneva, New York. It was formerly designated as N.Y. 1519 and was named in 1964. It was introduced as a Schmidt type and has been considerably more productive than Schmidt which has long been the standard for the fresh market in New York State.

Ulster has performed well throughout the State in growers' orchards and also in Pennsylvania. It has a good record during 17 years of testing at this Experiment Station. It has performed well in southern France. The Delbard Nursery has asked that it be named. Ulster was named for Ulster County, New York, where sweet cherries are grown commercially.

Ulster is a firm, very dark red sweet cherry. It ripens just after Schmidt, in midseason. It is large and of very good eating quality. In comparison with Schmidt, the trees are healthier, longer-lived, more resistant to southwest trunk winter injury, and more productive. It is a possible replacement for Schmidt which is the leading fresh-market sweet cherry variety in the state. The flesh is too dark in color for use in brining.

Cross-pollination experiments have shown that Ulster probably has a sterility factor constitution of S_2S_4 . Ulster is cross-compatible with all im-

portant sweet cherry varieties of this area, including Windsor, Napoleon, Schmidt, Hedelfingen, Emperor Francis, Gold, Hudson and Van. Virus indexes have shown that Ulster is virus-free but not resistant to infection by viruses transmitted by pollen.

Hudson

The Hudson sweet cherry resulted from the cross, Oswego x Giant, made in 1925. In 1935 it was selected from a population of 92 seedlings and has formerly been identified as N.Y. 591. Plants of it have been sold by the Fruit Testing Association since 1952.

Hudson was introduced in 1964 because of its very late ripening. It extends the normal picking season of sweet cherries by about 10 days. It was named for the Hudson Valley, New York, where sweet cherries are grown commercially.

Hudson fruits are medium-sized to large, and very dark red in color, though not fully black until dead ripe. The flavor is sweet and good. The flesh is very firm and is sometimes slightly tough unless fully ripe. Hudson fruits hang well on the tree and remain in good condition on the trees for extended periods after they are ready to be picked. Trees of Hudson are very vigorous and spreading and grow more rapidly than other varieties. They are more resistant to southwest trunk winter injury than other varieties.

Pollination studies have shown that Hudson probably has the sterility factor constitution of S_1S_4 . It is cross-

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incompatible with Giant, Rainier, and Yellow Glass. It is compatible with most important sweet cherry varieties, including Windsor, Napoleon, Schmidt, Van, Emperor Francis, and Ulster. Present Hudson stocks are virus free but can become infected by transmission through infected pollen.

Aurora

The Aurora pear (see front cover), introduced by the New York State Experiment Station, came from a cross Marguerite Marillat x Bartlett. This cross was made in 1937 by Professor Richard Wellington. It was selected from a progeny of only 5 seedlings by Professor R. C. Lamb in 1950. It was tested under the number N.Y. 7620. The name Aurora was chosen because of this pear's very fine appearance and in order to continue the practice of naming the introductions of the breeding program at the Geneva Station after New York towns and villages.

Aurora is a large pear averaging about 2¾ inches in diameter at its widest. The shape is a smooth pyriform. The color is a bright yellow overlaid with a light russet, and frequently the exposed cheek is blushed. It is a very attractive pear. The flesh is smooth, melting and juicy. The flavor is sweet and refreshing. Altogether, this is a very high quality pear. Aurora is picked and ripens immedi-



Fig. 1. Hudson, a new hardy, black sweet cherry of high quality.

ately after Bartlett. It will keep in cold storage longer than Bartlett, and has a longer shelf life when ripe.

The tree of Aurora is spreading and forms an open head. It is vigorous and productive. It does well when worked directly on quince as well as seedling pear rootstocks. Preliminary tests indicate that it is no more resistant to fire blight than is Bartlett. It is probably somewhat slower in coming into bearing than is Bartlett. The time of bloom is midseason, so that its season of bloom would overlap most commercial varieties of pears sufficiently to pollinate and be pollinated by them. It produces fertile pollen.

The potential value of this variety, as far as our present knowledge is concerned, is for the pear fancier, the home gardener who wants an especially high quality variety, and growers who have an outlet for a high quality dessert pear. Its chief disadvantage is its closeness to Bartlett in picking season.

York

The York elderberry originated from the cross, Adams No. 2 x Ezyoff, made in 1956. It was selected in 1958 from a population of 374 seedlings from this cross. It was formerly designated as N.Y. 12, and plants have been sold by the Fruit Testing Association since 1961.

York was introduced in 1964 because of its superior performance, its high yields, and its potential usefulness for commercial production of this fruit. The berries and clusters are larger than those of most other elderberry varieties. The soluble solids content is mediocre, with a 5-year average of 10.8%. York ripens a few days later than Adams No. 1 and Kent.

The bushes of York are vigorous and fruitful. It is only partially self-fruitful and provision for cross-pollination is necessary.