

used for local consumption — and to some extent for freezing.

Everbearing varieties are not becoming especially popular in any part of the country.

The light-colored, firm-fleshed types are in highest favor because of their superiority as preserves. Productivity is another important characteristic of a popular variety.

The table which shows the rating of strawberry varieties on the basis of State Experiment Stations recommendations indicates that comparatively few old varieties rank among the leaders. The outstanding exception is Howard 17 (or Premier), definitely the "Elberta" of the strawberry world.

Variety	No. of States Recommending Planting
Howard 17 (Premier)	22
Catskill	15
Blakemore	14
Fairfax	10
Gem	10
Dorsett	
Dunlap	8
Klondike	8
Rockhill (Wayzata)	8
Missionary	7
Marshall	6
Aroma	
Mastodon	
Midland	
Pathfinder	
Aberdeen	
Chesapeake	
Red Star	
Temple	3



Experience With Sweet Cherry Varieties

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The sweet cherry is particularly sensitive to its location, even to its place on the individual farm. This fact, and the need of new and better varieties to compete in the commercial markets, have narrowly limited the growing of sweet cherries in New York State. Fifty years ago most villagers had a tree or two in their back yards, and many farms had a dozen or more sweet cherries planted along the stone fences. This has all

passed, and we seldom hear of such old varieties as Coe's Transparent, Governor Wood, Black Eagle, Downers Late Red or Yellow Spanish.

Standard Varieties

The standard varieties are now Black Tartarian, Windsor and Schmidt. We need new varieties to extend the season and to improve the quality of fruit, so that we may compete with the cherries coming from the west coast. With this in mind we have been planting three other varieties on our farms in the Hudson

Valley. These varieties have all been introduced to us by the New York State Fruit Testing Association of Geneva, N. Y.

New Introductions

The first is Early Rivers, a variety widely grown in England. We have been fruiting Early Rivers seven years from trees now twelve years of age. The tree is moderately vigorous, somewhat willowy in appearance, and fairly hardy in bud. The fruit is round, black, soft fleshed and not subject to cracking. The stems are long, making easy picking. The season for ripening is between Seneca and Tartarian. Early Rivers seems the best early black cherry we have tried, and is very good for roadside stand trade.

Black Giant

The second variety, Black Giant, is a Burbank creation, which was fruited in New York in the early twenties. We have fruited this cherry twelve years. The tree tends to be small and somewhat weak, and should be grown on Mazzard stock. It bears at an early age, often picking a small crop at four years. It produces many fruit buds, which are of medium hardness, and it is a reliable cropper.

The fruit of Black Giant is large, deep black, firm fleshed and most attractive in appearance. Its faults are that it bears its fruit in large clusters which are susceptible to brown rot in rainy weather,

and it cracks rather easily. For the first few crops Black Giant has a tendency to develop tip cracks, but this trait disappears as the tree grows older. The fruit ripens late, shortly after Windsor. Black Giant promises to become one of the best sweet cherries for the fresh fruit trade.

Emperor Francis

The third variety, Emperor Francis, was introduced into this country from Belgium by the New York State Fruit Testing Association. It is an old variety which has been grown in Europe for many years. We have grown it since 1928. The tree is large, vigorous and very prolific. One of our trees has a record of 542 pounds in its sixteenth year. The trees become large and should not be set closer than 36 x 36 feet.

The fruit of Emperor Francis resembles Napoleon, but is larger, and when ripe has a deep yellow under-color with a rich red cheek; a most attractive fruit. With us it is usually the last sweet cherry to be picked. We have allowed it to remain on the tree as much as three weeks after maturity without detrimental effects. Although very firm, the fruit is fairly resistant to cracking, and does not bruise in shipment as do most light colored cherries. The flesh is thick and the pit is small, which makes Emperor an excellent cherry for canning. This variety also has such fine dessert quality that it promises to be a leader in the fresh fruit market.

