

Merton Cherries from England

Sweet cherry breeding has been going on at the famous John Innes Institute in England for a good many years. Peter Matthews tells us in "The Grower" that the first selections made by M. B. Crane and his staff from 1000 seedlings, fruited between 1920 and 1937. Of these, the most successful have been Merton Bigarreau, Merton Favourite and Merton Glory.

Merton Bigarreau is described as a regular cropper, and a large dessert type of excellent quality and appearance which it retains well in transit.

Merton Favourite fruit is not as large as that of M. Bigarreau, but often surpasses it in quality, and holds its gloss after harvest better than almost any other cherry.

Merton Glory is probably the largest cherry grown today, is good for both dessert and canning, but is too soft to ship. It has been an excellent source of resistance to bacterial canker in breeding, and tends to transmit the characteristics of large fruit and good quality to a high proportion of its offspring.

Two selections produced by X-ray irradiation of pollen to induce gene mutations, as well as new John Innes sweet cherry selections resistant to bacterial canker, are now under test.

Spur Type Apples

The following comments about spur type apple clones made by W. B. Lower, of Boyers Nurseries and Orchards, at the 1965 meeting of the State Hort. Assoc. of Pennsylvania, are of interest: "Because the spur type is less vigorous than the regular Delicious sports, it should be planted on the heavier (clay loam) soil types, and serious consideration should be given to irrigating it. These trees need to be

planted close, but there is a danger of crowding with too many trees. Furthermore, mildew may be a problem during wet years where poor air drainage exists in the thickly populated orchard."

Sunrise Strawberry in Massachusetts

The new early USDA strawberry, Sunrise, has fruited for three years in test plots of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Although the berries were attractive, J. F. Anderson reports in "Fruit Notes" that they were only small to medium in size, and yields were only fair compared with other varieties. Although Sunrise does not appear generally promising for Massachusetts, it may be worth testing in that state where early ripening and red stele resistance are desirable.

Elderberry Varieties

According to W. S. Clarke, Jr., of Pennsylvania State University (The Nutshell, April, 1965), several selections have been made from the elderberry species *Sambucus canadensis*. Two of these, Adams No. 1 and Adams No. 2 were introduced in 1920 by the late W. W. Adams, of Union Springs, New York. Both are self-unfruitful. Berries of No. 1 are more astringent than No. 2. No. 1 is a poor producer.

A variety named New York No. 12 was introduced by Roger Way, of the N. Y. Agr. Exp. Station in 1962. It is superior to Adams No. 2 in fruit size and yield.

E. L. Eaton, Dominion Exp. Farm, Kentville, Nova Scotia, introduced five varieties in 1960. One of these, Scotia, has berries with less acid and more sugar than other varieties tested at University Park, Pennsylvania.