

THE LAMIDA, EBONY AND SPALDING SWEET CHERRIES

By Leif Verner, 1946.
Idaho Agr. Expt. Sta. Circ. 109.

The following condensation is primarily in the authors own words.

The new varieties described in this circular were developed as an outgrowth of a study of the problem of fruit cracking in sweet cherries. The most promising solution to this problem appeared to lie in the development of new varieties which, while possessing good commercial qualities, would have a high degree of resistance to cracking.

Bing, Lambert, and Napoleon were used as female parents. These are the leading varieties grown in Idaho and all are highly susceptible to cracking. Pollen parents were Deacon, Black Republican, and Black Tartarian, all of which are highly resistant to cracking. Two of the new varieties described in this circular, Ebony and Spalding, are but slightly more resistant to cracking than their female parents, but they have other desirable characteristics that might make them useful varieties in areas where cracking is not a serious problem.

The majority of seedlings grown to date have come from open-pollinated

trees with only the three above enumerated pollen parents being located within a radius of over 200 yards. This procedure has left doubt as to the specific male parentage of any given seedling but since the sole purpose of the work was the production of varieties resistant to cracking, the method has proved entirely satisfactory.

The seedlings described have been ob-



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served only as grown under dryland conditions at Moscow, Idaho.

Lamida (? x Lambert)

This cherry closely resembles Lambert. In size it averages slightly larger, probably because, unlike Lambert, it does not set excessively heavy crops. The fruit is usually somewhat more pointed than Lambert. In resistance to cracking Lamida is far superior to Lambert and comparable to Deacon, which is one of the most resistant varieties now grown in Idaho. Lamida appears promising as a variety to replace Lambert where that variety is damaged extensively by cracking. In size, appearance, and quality it is an excellent cherry.

Ebony (Black Republican ? x Lambert)

This variety resembles Black Republican in form and color. It is a considerably larger cherry than Black Republican but not so large as Bing. It ripens at

about the same time as Bing, or slightly earlier. When fully ripe it is intensely dark in color, firm and very attractive. Its quality is excellent. The tree bears regularly and heavily. The fruit is but slightly more resistant to cracking than Bing and Lambert.

Spalding (Deacon ? x Bing)

This is a very large cherry, at least equal to Bing in size. It is somewhat more pointed than Bing, and has a better finish, retaining a high luster a long time after it is picked. In ripening it follows Bing by at least a week or 10 days. Before fully mature it is somewhat tart and, as grown under dry-land conditions, is hard to pick. When tree-ripe the fruit is sweet, rich, meaty and exceptionally firm. This variety should prove an excellent shipper. It appears slightly more resistant to cracking than either Bing or Lambert.—W.P.J.



LUTHER BURBANK: A VICTIM OF HERO WORSHIP

By WALTER L. HOWARD, 1945

Chronica Botanica 9(5-6):299-506 \$3.75

According to the author "This book was prepared in a spirit of fair play to enable the reader to understand and appreciate Luther Burbank. Circumstances over which he had little control clothed

him in glittering tinsel, but a veil of darker hue was superposed when he became the tool of schemers".

"With none too gentle hands I have endeavored to tear away these hindering habiliments to see what the real Burbank looked like. And behold, a pristine figure emerges that is every inch a man of worth, a man of original ideas, a man with a definite mission in life, fully cap-