

tional year of certification under New Jersey rules. Screenhouse plants will be available on a prorated basis to those nurseries maintaining screenhouse programs. Screenhouse plants

can be obtained from Dr. Carter R. Smith, Department of Horticulture and Forestry, Rutgers—The State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

New Fruit Cultivars from Ontario, Canada

O. A. BRADT, C. L. RICKETSON, G. TEHRANI AND E. A. KERR*

Eight fruit cultivars were named by the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, and introduced in 1967. These consist of three plums, two sweet cherries, two strawberries and one grape. They have been extensively tested by growers and experiment stations, and many of them have established a place in commercial production.

Plums

The plums introduced are blue prune types maturing with Italian or later. They are suitable primarily for fresh market, but Verity also makes a high quality canned product.

Valor (Imperial Epineuse x Grand Duke) is a medium large, attractive,

semi-freestone prune with excellent eating quality. The fruit is dark purple with some speckling on the skin. The flesh is somewhat greenish yellow in color, but this is not objectionable as the consumer will taste its excellent quality before he sees the mediocre internal color. It is larger than Italian and matures just ahead of that variety. The trees are vigorous and productive. It was tested as Vineland 33021.

Verity (Imperial Epineuse x Grand Duke) is a medium size, attractive blue plum with attractive orange flesh. It is freestone, and slightly larger than Italian. It has shown promise both for processing and for fresh market. Maturity is similar to Italian. The tree has a flat spreading habit and has been a consistent producer. It was tested as Vineland 310110.

Vision (Pacific x Albion) is a very large, blue, freestone prune with yellow flesh, and very good eating quality. It is too large for a processing plum and shows great promise for the fresh market. It is late in maturity, similar to Reine Claude, with an average picking date of October 1st at Vineland. Trees are very vigorous, with a spreading habit. It was tested as Vineland 37011.

Sweet Cherries

The two new sweet cherries are both early, firm-fleshed cultivars, maturing in Venus season. Both have been productive and are compatible



Fig. 1. Valor, a midseason, purple prune with excellent quality for fresh market.

*Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ontario.

with all of the main commercial sweet cherries.

Vega, tested as Vineland 31034, is a seedling of Bing x Victor. It is a large, very attractive, white sweet cherry for processing. It is quite firm and has a small pit, which is easily removed. Average picking date is July 11, a day before Venus. Vega is recommended for brining and maraschino uses, and has also made an acceptable canned product. It is suitable for the manufacture of cocktail cherries, as the pit can be removed without detaching the stem. Vega is too tart for dessert purposes until very ripe. Brown rot has occasionally been a problem and consequently it requires a careful spray program. It is larger, firmer and earlier than most white cherries, and fills a need for a processing cherry to be harvested before Victor and Napoleon.

Valera, tested as Vineland 350427, is a seedling of Hedelfingen x Windsor. It is medium in size, firm, and of good quality. Average picking date is July 13 at Vineland, one day after Venus. The tree is vigorous and comes into bearing early. Valera is a sister seedling of Venus, but has darker fruit color, a richer flavor and has had a more consistent crop record than Venus. It is recommended for the fresh market.

Strawberries

Almost all strawberry production in Ontario is now centered on the Redcoat cultivar. This cultivar is excellent for fresh market purposes, but there is a definite need for cultivars to expand the season for fresh market, and for processing.

Veestar (Valentine x Sparkle) is a productive, early, fresh market cultivar, ripening about one day after Earlidawn. It was tested as Vineland 58031. The fruit is medium-sized, conic, uniform, smooth. The skin is medium-red, glossy and attractive.



Fig. 2. Vision, a very large, late, blue prune with very good eating quality.

The flesh is light to medium-red, with a slightly white center. It is moderately firm, with an inconspicuous core, and has an excellent, slightly acid, flavor. The achenes are even with the surface or slightly sunken. Runner production is moderate and plants are of medium size and vigor. Veestar is susceptible to leaf scorch, but moderately resistant to verticillium wilt.



Fig. 3. Valera, an early, firm, black cherry for fresh market.

Vibrant (Sparkle x Valentine) is a productive, early-midseason cultivar for fresh market and processing. It ripens about one day ahead of Redcoat and, like Veestar, was produced from hybridization in 1958. It was tested as Vineland 580217. The fruit is medium-sized, conic, smooth, with a slight tendency to split primaries. The skin is medium-dark-red, glossy, and attractive. The flesh is a bright medium-red, firm, with a fair, slightly acid flavor. Vibrant makes an excellent quality frozen pack, canned product and jam. The calyx has been somewhat difficult to remove by machine. Runner production is moderate, and plants have medium size and vigor. Vibrant is susceptible to verticillium wilt (similar to Redcoat) but resistant to leaf scorch.

Grapes

In recent years much of the grape breeding work at Vineland has been concerned with transferring many of the desirable features of the vinifera grapes to hardier types. There is a need for cultivars to spread the harvest period for both fresh market and wine types.

Vincent is a wine grape ripening in Concord season. It was derived from the cross Vineland 370628 (Lomanto



Fig. 5. Vincent, a dark blue wine grape ripening in Concord season.

x Seneca) x Seibel 10878, and was tested as Vineland 49431. The bunches are compact to very compact, and medium to large in size. The berries are dark-blue and have very dark juice. The rating for Vincent wine has been good to excellent, both as red table and port types. The vine is vigorous and productive, ripens its wood well, and has not suffered winter injury at Vineland. Late in the season the foliage has been somewhat susceptible to powdery mildew. The fruit, however, has not been affected. Vincent is under test in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, and is being planted in Ontario as quickly as propagating wood becomes available.



Fig. 4. Veestar, a productive, early strawberry ripening about a day after Earlidawn.

A Blight Resistant Chestnut?

W. H. Childs, of West Virginia University, at Morgantown, has reported the existence of a still vigorous American chestnut tree 3½ feet in diameter, 8 inches above ground, which survived the blight epidemic of the late 1920's. It was found in 1967 on the farm of L. R. Satterfield, 15 miles from Morgantown.