

CHERRY AND PLUM CULTURE IN MISSOURI

By T. J. TALBERT, 1946

Missouri Agr. Exp. Sta. Circ. 307, 16 pages

This circular contains information on establishing and managing cherry and plum orchards. The material is presented in a brief and logical manner.

The discussions of stocks and varieties should be of particular interest to our readers. Talbert indicates that the Mazzard root stock is most satisfactory for cherries on heavy soils whereas the Mahaleb is best on gravelly soils. The Mahaleb root is hardier to cold than is the Mazzard and makes a better tree in the nursery.

Cherry Varieties in Missouri

Montmorency is the leading sour cherry in Missouri, with *Dyehouse* and *Early Richmond* being of minor value as early season varieties.

Royal Duke is the preferred Duke cherry with *May Duke* and *Late Duke* also being planted in limited numbers. Late Duke is preferred in the northern sections because of its late blooming habit.

Seneca is the most suitable sweet cherry variety. The following varieties are also planted in small quantities: *Gold Wood*, *Tartarian*, *Napoleon*, *Lambert*, *Bing*, *Windsor*, and *Yellow Spanish*.

Plum Varieties in Missouri

The native or American plums are inferior to the European (domestica), Damson, or Japanese types. *Wild Goose* is the only one which is planted to any extent.

The Japanese hybrid plums bloom before the European varieties, are susceptible to injury by frost, and are similar in quality and texture to the American sorts. They are not rated very high for either dessert or culinary use when compared to the European types. The most commonly planted hybrid varieties include *Underwood*, *Omaha*, *Red Wing*, *Hanska*, and *Gold Munson*. *Waneta*, and *Superior* are found in some districts.

European plums are found in central and southern Missouri. *Stanley*, *Grand Duke*, *Gueii*, *Italian Prune*, *German Prune* and *Shropshire Damson* are the most promising. The following are suggested for trial and home use: *President*, *Yellow Egg*, *Moore's Arctic*, *Arch Duke*, *Pacific*, *Bradshaw*, *French Prune*, *Silver Prune*, and *Green Gage*.

Fall or early winter planting is recommended for cherries and plums, except Japanese plums which should be set in early spring.

—W.P.J.

