Scanning report
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NUTS 3 region(s)[1]: [HU101, HU102]

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[Y1 report due May 2016 for the period 03-16 to 05-16

Y2 report due May 2017 for the period 06-16 to 05-17

Y3 report due May 2018 for the period 06-17 to 05-18]

Source materials and methodology

The cultivar evaluations are partly based on UPOV descriptors.

Best practice findings

Cherry breeding program has been running at NARIC Fruitculture Research Institute since 1950. The Hungarian bred sweet cherry cultivars (Rita, Vera, Carmen, Annus, Aida, and Paulus) are tested and grown not just in Hungary but in many European countries. The cultivars having large fruit size, firm flesh, shinny, dark red fruit skin, good sweet taste, medium or long stem, very early or late ripening time are preferred on the market. Some characteristics of our cultivars fit well to the different expectations, so they play an important role in the production not just in Hungary, but in some European countries.

The Hungarian cherry breeding program is still running, and this year enough hybrid seeds can be produced, as forecasted previously.

This year was not a good year for sweet and tart cherry production in Hungary. The winter was mild. The blooming time was very early (on the first week of April) and rapid; there were new heat records (new maximum temperatures) day bay day during this phonological stage. Small differences were obtained during the blooming time among the hybrids and cultivars. After the warm period in early April the temperature was cold in the second half of this month, so the daily minimum temperatures were between 0 °C and -1 °C. The last days of April strong night frosts having 3 to 7 degrees below zero were countrywide, which damaged not just the flowers but the small fruits strongly. The genotypes or cultivars having early ripening time lost 30 to 60% of their crop. The next month, May, was very rainy and cold, because around 80 mm felt down, therefore fruits of early ripening cultivars started to crack. This very rainy period continues during the ripening period, as forecasted. The ripening time is 5 to 7 days behind the average shown the last years. Unfortunately, this year is not the optimal to evaluate the hybrids and the cultivars, because the yield and the fruit size are smaller, than as usual.

Among the approved cultivars the early ripening Rita had not too high production, its fruit size was typical for the cultivars, but huge ratio of the fruits were cracked. Sándor cultivar showed medium yield, but its fruit quality was larger than as usual, average size of the fruits reached 26 mm in diameter. The Burlat started to ripe in the first days of June, its yield was between medium and good, rate of cracked fruits was quite high. The other cultivars star to ripe later, so we are collecting and evaluating their data.

[1] Please see ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/ for details on NUTS regions, level 3

Some of our cultivars are involved in the rootstock trial evaluatin gat the Experimental Fields of the Institute. Petrus, Vera, and Carmen sweet cherry cultivars were grafted on different Mahaleb rootstocks (Sm 11/4, Egervár, Érdi V, Bogdány, and Magyar), can be propagated by cuttings. The trial established in spring of 2004. This year crop of the rootstock – scion combinations was reduced by the late spring frosts. Although Petrus is a high productive self-fertile cultivar, its crop is less by 30% compared to the previous yields, its fruit size is not decreased with important degree. Yield of Carmen and Vera is 50% less, than it was in the previously years. There is a dramatic decrease on the Carmen combinations. This time is early to evaluate the Carmen and Vera combinations fruit quality.