The Corum Sweet Cherry

Quentin B. Zielinski

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Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon State University
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Origin

Corum was found in 1945 as an unknown seedling on the farm of Gordon Corum, Eugene, Oregon.

Tree

The tree is vigorous, upright-spreading when young, later becoming rather wide spreading but not very drooping, resembling the variety Lambert. Hardiness tests to date show it to be as hardy as Royal Ann and other standard varieties.

Fruit

Corum cherry is a light-colored type with colorless juice. The moderately thick skin is light pale yellow with a pronounced attractive red blush. The fruit ripens 5-7 days before Royal Ann. The stem is slender, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long, and adheres well to the fruit. Flesh is whitish with a faint yellow tinge, tender, very meaty, firm, crisp, and mild flavored. The stone is slightly clinging as in Royal Ann and is small in proportion to the weight of the fruit. Corum has rated very high in canning tests and in brining trials. It is moderately resistant to cracking, equalling Royal Ann and Lambert.

Pollination

Five years of hand-pollination tests showed Corum to be a pollinizer for Sue, Sam, Van, Royal Ann, Bing, and Lambert. The flowering period peaks 2-3 days before Royal Ann and coincides with the pollinizer variety Black Republican. In some areas Corum may be as useful a pollinizer as Black Republican.

Comparison with Royal Ann

Corum is comparable to Royal Ann in size, shape, appearance, and processing quality, but ripens 5-7 days earlier. These are valuable characteristics in harvesting, marketing, and spreading the risks of damage from fruit cracking. Corum surpasses in quality any other light-colored pollinizer variety now available for commercial orchards in the United States.

Virus Status

Corum has been indexed as virus-free by the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. Sufficient budwood is available to fill new requests. Commercial tree fruit nurserymen have developed virus-free mother trees for commercial budding purposes.

* Associate Professor of Horticulture, Oregon State University.
Limitations

While Corum is worthy of commercial trial, its future status as a major variety cannot be predicted on the basis of tests. Final judgment of Corum as a commercial variety depends upon its performance under a wide range of cultural conditions in commercial orchards over a long period of time and its acceptance by the trade and consumers.

Planting Stock

Neither the Department of Horticulture nor the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station will have Corum trees available for general distribution. Growers interested in obtaining trees or scionwood should contact nurserymen who now are propagating the variety. Most Oregon nurserymen who customarily propagate cherry trees will have stock available soon. The Experiment Station will have a limited quantity of scionwood for distribution in 1961 and 1962 to propagators who wish to establish mother-block trees or to growers who may be interested in making a few grafts for testing purposes only. Arrangements to obtain this scionwood should be made through local County Extension Agents.