

ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

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THE HAINES FRUIT SEASON

We had an excellent fruit-growing season in Haines., with an early and warm spring. By the time the apples were in bloom, insects were active and did an excellent pollinating job. Many of my trees bloomed for the first time, including my 'Summer Crisp' pear and 'Mt. Royal' plum. Since my other pear tree, 'Hudar' did not bloom, none of the pears set fruit. However, the 'Mt. Royal' plum is self pollinating and did bear fruit.

This was a record year for cherries in the Haines area. No one can remember ever seeing their trees so loaded with fruit. I had to prop the branches of my sour cherry trees. All varieties of sweet cherries did exceptionally well. Even the bears discovered the cherries. One black bear in our area would send its cub up the tree to break the branches so mamma could eat her fill, too. The bears did extensive damage to many trees in the area, although they didn't find my orchard.

This, too, was an excellent season for apples. The first to mature was 'Rescue' crabapple on 16 August. It was ripe in time for me to enter it in the SE Alaska State Fair. The fruit was sweet and had a nice flavor, but it was not as crisp as I prefer.

On 24 August, 'Norland' apples were ready to eat. This is my favorite apple, so crisp, sweet and juicy.

About 26 August, my 'Yellow Transparent' were ready to eat. They were a little tart but not bad if picked just right.

In late August, I had some 'Early McIntosh' that looked ripe. However, someone else must have decided they looked good, too as they disappeared. Another apple that ripened in late August was 'Tetovsky', an old Russian apple. It is a yellow apple, nice size, but a little tart. If eaten early, they are crisp; later they become sweeter, but softer.

'Livland Raspberry' apple became ripe about 30 August. The fruit was yellow with faint pink blush. The fruit was juicy, crisp but tart. My 'State Fair' apples ripened during the first week of September. This tree had lots of apples, and of a nice size. However, the apples had some scab, more than any of my other fruit. The apples were very good to eat, crisp and sweet. I rate this apple just behind 'Norland' perhaps because the 'State Fair' is a little too sweet for my taste.

I have 3 'Chestnut' crabapples, and they all had big crops. I began eating them by 10 September and continued right up until the end of October. This year some of the apples were almost as large as small regular apples. I really enjoy eating those little apples. They are so crisp and juicy.

This was the second year my 'Wellington' tree produced fruit. I waited until October before I picked them. Of all my apples, they are the most beautiful, deep red and perfect formation. They looked just like a

bowl of waxed fruit. However, they leave something to be desired for eating raw. I didn't try them for cooking, but expect they would be excellent. You can eat them raw, but they don't measure up to most other apples.

I have a 'Wealthy' apple in its second year. It produced one apple this year. It was a nice sized apple, mostly yellow with a faint pink blush. It did not prove to be the best eating apple, but the seeds were still white, so if I had left it longer, it might have been better.

Lastly, my 80-year-old 'Waxen', which came from the old Anway ranch, produced very heavily. We picked 5 bushels of big apples from this tree. I picked these just before the end of October, wrapped and stored the apples for winter use in sauce and pies. They are inedible raw, but nothing is better when cooked.

I have only a 'Mt. Royal' plum, and it is self-pollinating. This was the first year it bloomed, and I was happy to find several dozen fruit formed. By mid September, the fruit turned deep blue with yellow flesh. Later they became so ripe that the skins split. They were about the size of a pullet egg, and had an excellent flavor. A neighbor had a 'Stanley' plum that produced so well that she was able to make several recipes of jam.

-Bob Henderson

WILD CHOKECHERRIES TAMED

The sour chokecherry is looking sweeter these days. The demand for chokecherry jelly and syrup is good, so prices are premium for the wild fruit.

Now Colorado has the first cultivated chokecherry orchard in the nation. The research project was conceived and developed by the private sector and paid for by industry and interested citizens.

A chokecherry processor in Colorado was troubled by the undependable supply of wild berries, so he formed the Chokecherry Growers Assoc. and asked Colorado State University to conduct research.

Two acres have been set aside, fenced, and irrigated. In 1987, 600 seedlings of 4 varieties were planted.

-Excerpted from Science of Food and Agriculture. July 1990.

1991 DUES

\$10.00

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TO:

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Anchorage, AK 99502

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PLEASE PAY BY JANUARY 31, 1991

FRUIT CULTIVARS - WHITNEY'S O & N
WINTER 1990-91

I. APPLE AND APPLECRAB CULTIVARS

ROOTSTOCK abbreviations: A = Antonovka, B = Baccata, P = Prunifolia,
R = Ratka, W = Wien.
SCION GROWTH is in inches, as measured June 17, 1990. The scion
growth on these trees has probably doubled or tripled since then.

CULTIVAR/ ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY	CULTIVAR/ ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY
NORLAND/R	6-12 IN.	8	NORLAND/R	1/2-4 IN	2
YELLOW JAY/R	7-22 IN.	3	YELLOW JAY/R	2-1/2-3	2
NORET/R	5-9 IN.	3	NORET/R	1/2-1-1/2	4
NORHEY/R	7-13 IN.	7			
DAWN/R	6 IN.	1	DAWN/R	1/2 IN	1
NORCUE/R	6-16 IN.	6	NORCUE/R	1/2 IN	1
NORSON/R	12-18 IN.	4	NORSON/B	18 IN	1
NORDA/R	8-12 IN.	3	NORDA/R	1-3 IN	2
NORDA/A	24 IN.	1			
NORAN/R	18-20 IN.	3	GENEVA EARLY/B	10 IN	1
TRAILMAN/R	7-10 IN.	2	GENEVA EARLY/R	12 IN	1
GENEVA EARLY/P	6-14 IN.	6	GENEVA EARLY/P	1/2-4 IN	2
PARKLAND/P	10-15 IN.	4	PARKLAND/P	1/2-5 IN	2
RESCUE/R	12-20 IN.	5	RESCUE/R	1-3 IN	4
STATE FAIR/B	16-18 IN.	2	RESCUE/B	14 IN	1
CHINESE GOLDEN EARLY/P	7-15 IN.	7	CH. GOLDEN EARLY/P	4 IN	1
PARKLAND/R	6-15 IN.	4	RESCUE/P	6-11 IN	4
PATTERSON/R	13-16 IN.	2	ORIOLE/P	6-15 IN	3
WESTLAND/R	10-20 IN.	3	PATTERSON/R	1 IN	1
HEYER 12/R	15-17 IN.	6	VIKING/B	16 IN	1
VISTA BELLA/R	7-17 IN.	5	HEYER 12/R	6 IN	1
HAZEN/P	6-16 IN.	5	VISTA BELLA/P	6 IN	2
MANTET/P	9-10 IN.	2	MANTET/A	12 IN	1
VISTA BELLA/B	24 IN.	1	MANTET/P	1-4 IN	2
SUMMERRED	16-18 IN.	4	HEYER 12/B	9 IN	1
YELLOW TRANSPA- RENT (KOENIGER CV.)	12-20 IN.	6			

II. PEAR CULTIVARS

ROOTSTOCK CODE: C = Pyrus communis, U = Ussurlan Pear

CULTIVAR/ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY	CULTIVAR/ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY
GIFFORD/C	6-17 IN	5	GIFFORD/C	1/2-4 IN	3
PIONEER #3/U	5-12 IN	2			
SUMMERCRISSP/U	6-12 IN	5	SUMMERCRISSP/U	2-4 IN	4
URE - NO TREES AVAILABLE					

III. PLUM CULTIVARS

ROOTSTOCK CODE: M = Manchurian plum, A = American plum

CULTIVAR/ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY	CULTIVAR/ROOTSTOCK	SCION GROWTH	QUANTITY
ASSINIBOINE/A	16-22 IN	4	ASSINIBOINE/A	3 IN	1
BROOKRED/A	15-18 IN	2	HANSKA/A	9-20 IN	3
PEMBINA/A	20 IN	1	UNDERWOOD/A	10-18 IN	3
PTITSIN #9/A	18 IN	1			

IV. MOTHER TREES - Not for sale

PEARS - Gifford, Ure, Summercrisp, 942-35R (edible-fruited Ussurlan)
PLUMS - Assiniboine, Brookgold, Brookred, Opal, Pembina, Ptitsin #9,
Redcoat

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

We acquired from the Saanichton Plant Quarantine Station this fall
summer budwood of Carroll, Caravel, and two new Canadian hardy apple
cultivars, Fall Red and September Ruby. We acquired as additions to our
plum cultivars Bounty, Norther, and Ptitsin #5 and will have some trees of
these available in 1992. We also acquired the Westcot apricot and will have
trees of it available in 1992.

In response to requests from several NAFEX members, we also plan to
propagate a few trees of the Homer Bing cherry, of Lapins, and of Salmo, all
of them on the semidwarfing cherry rootstock GM 61-1. These also will be
available in 1992.

If there are varieties which you want which are not on the list, or which
are on the list but in short supply, please let Dan Whitney and me know so
that you can be at or near the top of the list for these trees in 1992.

Sincerely,

Bob Purvis

Cost: 1/9 from plus 20% for shipping (25% for UPS 2nd day Air)