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## BRIEFS

### CORNELL RELEASES FOUR NEW STONE FRUITS

Fruit breeders at Cornell University officially released two new cherries and two new plums during the Centennial Fruit Field Days held at the Experiment Station on July 27, 2004. The four new varieties, which are primarily for the processing market, were developed and tested by Bob Andersen, director of the stone fruit breeding program at Cornell, and professor of horticultural sciences.

"BlackYork™ ('Haas' cultivar-NY 1725) is a mid-season, dark-fleshed, sweet cherry that is well adapted to humid climates," says Andersen, who retired as Cornell's stone fruit breeder this year. "The skin is glossy black, and the fruit of medium size and firmness." Although primarily a processing sweet cherry well suited for use in cherry yogurts, BlackYork™ has also performed well in pick-your-own operations as a fresh-market cherry. "It is a reliable cropper that sets good quality fruit on rugged trees," says Andersen. BlackYork™ can pollinate Emperor Francis, Kristin, Ulster, and BlushingGold™, the other new cherry release from Cornell.

BlushingGold™ ('Pendleton cultivar-NY 8182) is a mid-season brining-type cherry with light flesh that is an excellent high-yielding variety, says Andersen. It ripens after Emperor Francis, but prior to Stark Gold. Like BlackYork™, BlushingGold™ will pollinate Emperor Francis, and vice-versa.

#### Two New Plums

The two new plum releases, NY6™ and NY9™, are dual purpose fresh-market or processing plums, but are primarily intended for the processing market.

"NY6™ ('Jayfre' cultivar -NY 66.609.6) ripens before Stanley and Italian Prune, and crops regularly and heavily," says Andersen. "Fruit size is larger than Castleton, its sister, and infant food trials have been very favorable." The variety is a cross of Iroquois X Valor, and requires cross-pollination. Stanley, NY9™ and Castleton are effective pollenizers.

NY6™ grows on spreading, precocious trees that are medium in vigor and non-biennial in cropping habit. The fruit is medium size, round/oval in shape, with sky-blue skin color and a non-fragmenting pit. The plum has low-acid flesh and good color retention. Highly suitable for processing, NY6™ can be used in infant foods, bakery purees, and blended with other plums. Gerber Products has made product out of NY6™ and found it meets their needs better than Stanley.

"NY9™ ('Kenmore' cultivar-NY 58.900.9) is pit-free, medium size, non-shattering plum, with an oval shape, attractive blue skin, and excellent quality as both a fresh market and processing plum," says

(Continued on page 2)

## Centennial Edition of Fruit Field Days Held

It was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who said, "The best thing to do when it's raining is to let it rain." Some years later, and in much the same vein, it was Terence Robinson who said, "This is a pretty tough day to hold a field day—the worst I've seen in fact; but we're going to go ahead anyway."

So on July 27, during a day long, often driving rain and sometimes ankle-deep mud,

the 2004 (Centennial) edition of the Fruit Field Days and Equipment Show got underway. The Centennial designation refers to this year's celebration of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences 100<sup>th</sup> year.

Bob Andersen later said, "I noticed that despite the rain, about seventy-five percent of the people seemed to be paying attention to what I was saying, so we must be doing something right."

"Although substantial rain made conditions miserable, those who attended were very appreciative of the presentations," Terence Robinson added. "Several commented that while they were wet and cold, the information they gleaned was very useful to their fruit growing business."

This positive outlook prevailed throughout a day that dampened just about everything but the obvious enthusiasm of an umbrella-wielding, boot-clad crowd as they went from location to soggy location to listen to presentations by Cornell faculty and extension field staff.

During the lunch break, Bob Seem spoke to the group. "I need to say welcome to the hardy folks that braved the summer storms to visit us today," he said. "What you see today is in the tradition of the land grant universities—those universities with the mission to support agriculture. Yet in many states, this sort of tradition is but a memory of what every college of agriculture and agricultural experiment station used to do, but does no more. We here in New York are fortunate that the fruit field days still exist."

Seem went on to talk about change, including the changes taking place along PreEmption Road with the opening phase of construction of the Ag Tech Park and the impact this will have both for the Station and those it serves.

"The College's motto is Celebrating the Past, Shaping the Present, Inspiring the Future. Enjoy, stay dry and have a great time," he concluded.

Following Seem's comments, two new sweet cherries, and two new plum varieties were introduced and publicly released by Bob Andersen. Bob was also presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Cornell Fruit Work Team and the New York State Horticultural Society.

The second day provided much better weather and an equally enthusiastic crowd. About 300 people attended the two-day event, according to Robinson. Attendees were treated to more than 50 presentations on research projects dealing with cropland management, high-density orchard systems, rootstocks, disease and insect control, fruit quality, new variety development, genetic preservation, food safety, sprayer technology, and weed control.

Financial sponsors of the event included 28 fruit supply and marketing businesses whose support provided a lunch for attendees. Several of these sponsors exhibited their products during the lunch period and several sprayer manufacturers demonstrated their machines during the field tours.

This event, which is held every four years, was organized by a committee of researchers and extension field staff of the Cornell Fruit Program Work Team. The committee included Terence Robinson, Art Agnello, Courtney Weber, Andrew Landers, Alison DeMarree, Dena Fiacchino, Nancy Long, Gemma Osborne and Mark Scott. The faculty and extension agents who shared their research projects during the field day did an excellent job of communicating to the fruit growers how the research they are conducting could help improve fruit growing in NY. The Field Research Crew at Geneva also did an excellent job of preparing the plots and providing logistical support to the event.

J. Ogradnick



Terence Robinson (left) and Bob Andersen (right) speak to Fruit Field Days attendees on a soggy opening day of the event.



Two attendees examine grape leaf with tydeid mites.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
**AUGUST 6 - 20, 2004**
**FITNESS**
**Aerobics**

**Date:** Mon. & Fri.  
**Time:** 12:10 - 1 PM  
**Place:** Sawdust Cafe

**Taekwondo**

Summer Recess

**CLASSIFIED**

**FOR SALE:** 993 Mazda Protege. Runs very good, only 50K. Standard transmission, light green, new muffler, changed part of the brakes before winter. Asking \$4000. (approximately 1 year left on the insurance) Please call 607-229-0644 (cell) or 315-789-9196 after August 11.

**FOR SALE:** Two cute and playful ferrets, two tier cage with tunnel extensions, \$100. Contact David at x2496 or Bradley at 585-2248.

**FOR SALE:** Volvo 740 Turbo Intercooler 1990-model Station wagon. 114,800 miles. Seats 5 adults and 2 children. Automatic transmission, AM/FM cassette, ABS, airconditioning, front seat heaters, leather seats. Power: steering, windows, sunroof, mirrors and locks. Color: blue. Very good condition and runs great. Asking \$4,000. The car will be available from September 1. For more information please contact Berit at bn42@cornell.edu, office phone x2426, cell 521-8114.

**FOR RENT:** 2 bedroom house (furnished or unfurnished) on 70 country acres, 2 car garage, dry, full basement, screened-in porch, all appliances including dishwasher, washer and dryer. Freshly painted. Available immediately. Children and pets allowed, prefer non-smokers. Contact Dana at ds223 or call 585-526-5034.

**FOR SALE:** Size 10 Rollerblade EVO 08 ALU Men's inline fitness skates. High-tech features for high performance. Bio Dynamic Shell and Cuff. PFS training liner. Memory-fit. Aluminum frame. Adjustable lite brake. 78 mm wheels. Like new, used only a couple of times. Retail price: \$190. Asking \$50 obo. Free elbow, hand and knee protections. If interested e-mail frb3@cornell.edu, call x2327 or (315) 278-2739.

**FOR RENT:** Spacious 1st floor apartment, one or two bedrooms. New appliances, freshly painted, laundry, and parking. Walking distance to hospital, schools, and Experiment station. \$455 plus. Contact Nancy Long (NPL1) X2288.

**FOR SALE:** 1992 Oldsmobile 88 Royale LS Sedan 4D. 98,200 miles, NY State inspection just passed. Automatic, cruise control, AM/FM cassette, ABS, driver side air-bag. Power: steering, windows, seat, mirrors and locks. Color: dark red. Very good condition, runs great. Asking \$2000 or B.O. For more information please contact Cristina at mr295@cornell.edu or 787-2277.

**(NEW STONE FRUIT, continued)**

Andersen. "The trees are self-fertile, and the fruit is firm enough to pack and ship to wholesale markets." Yield, size, and ripening times are all similar to Stanley. The tree is more resistant to black knot than Stanley, and more resistant to mites than either Stanley or NY6™. Like NY6™, NY9 has performed well in infant food products that utilize European-type blue plums as an ingredient.

Andersen, who is retiring as Cornell's stone fruit breeder [see related story], has released 15 varieties of stone fruit during his 13 years as Cornell's stone fruit breeder.

International Plant Management, Inc., of Lawrence, MI, represents the Cornell Research Foundation (CRF) and the NYSAES in the introduction and marketing of stone fruit selections from Cornell's stone fruit breeding program. The new releases will be patented and trademarked by CRF, and sub-licensed to nurseries by International Plant Management, Inc., who will make them available to commercial growers and the public.

N. Abbott

## Bob Andersen Retires

**B**ob Andersen, director of Cornell University's stone fruit breeding and evaluation program and professor of horticultural sciences at the Experiment Station, is retiring after more than 40 years as a plant breeder. Andersen will pass aspects of the stone fruit program to three other members of the horticultural sciences department at Geneva. Courtney Weber will work with plums and apricots, Susan Brown will assume responsibility for the cherry program, and Terence Robinson will assume responsibility for stone fruit production systems, rootstock evaluation and pears. "Cornell's sweet cherry breeding program has been gaining momentum over the last five years," said Andersen. "Advances in the development of new varieties, rootstocks, and the control of fruit cracking suggest that growers can produce high quality stone fruits and take advantage of their proximity to East Coast markets. I am very pleased that Susan Brown, Courtney Weber and Terence Robinson have agreed to carry on this effort."



R. Andersen

Weber is assistant professor of horticultural sciences and directs Cornell's small fruit breeding program. He was trained at the University of Florida in stone fruit breeding prior to becoming a berry breeder at Cornell. Brown, who served as Cornell's stone fruit breeder from 1985 to 1991, is professor of horticultural sciences and directs Cornell's apple breeding program. Robinson is associate professor of horticultural sciences and leads Cornell's fruit orchard systems and fruit tree rootstock evaluation program.

"Bob Andersen has been a tireless and effective advocate for the New York stone fruit industry," said Brown. "He has produced many advanced breeding selections and released several sweet and tart cherry cultivars that are well adapted to New York conditions. We are not able to replace Dr. Andersen, but our continuation of his programs ensures that the Cornell breeding material will be advanced and not lost," she said.

Fruit breeding and evaluation has been a major focus of the Geneva Experiment Station since its founding in 1880. Over the last 124 years, researchers at Geneva have introduced more than 245 varieties of apples, grapes, berries, and stone fruits, selecting for yield, flavor, winter hardiness, insect and disease resistance and vigor. It can take 10 to 15 years of development and testing before a new fruit variety is ready for commercial release, and another 10 to 15 years before the variety gains name recognition with the public.

### Andersen's 40 Years in Horticulture

In recognition of his contributions to horticultural science and the New York fruit industry, Andersen was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the Cornell Fruit Work Team and the NY State Horticultural Society at Cornell's Centennial Fruit Field Days and Equipment Show on July 27.

"Bob Andersen has been an especially important part of the Cornell team that supports the New York fruit industry. He has been a tireless promoter of cherries, peaches, plums, apricots and pears," said Fruit Program Work Team Leader, Terence Robinson.

"Bob has been the reason for the revitalization of the New York stone fruit industry," said stone fruit and apple grower Jim Bittner, who is president of the NY State Horticultural Society. "The varieties he bred and evaluated will form the basis of the industry for many years to come."

Andersen's career in horticulture started as a schoolboy in Reinbeck, Iowa, where he cut asparagus in the evenings for spending money. He received his B.S. in plant science in 1960 from Iowa State University, and spent two years in the Army before receiving his master's degree from Michigan State in 1964, and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1971.

Andersen became an associate and then a full professor at Michigan State, where he worked in stone fruit breeding and evaluation from 1974-1980. From 1980-1985, he served as chair of the horticulture department at Clemson University. In 1985, he assumed the chairmanship of Cornell University's department of horticultural sciences at the Experiment Station until 1991, when he became director of Cornell's stone fruit breeding and evaluation program.

While at Cornell, Andersen released 15 varieties of cherries, plums, and peaches, and supervised several graduate students in their research. He has also consulted with fruit breeders and researchers in Australia, China, Egypt, and Europe.