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THE POMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAIN SWEET CHERRY TREE VARIETIES GROWN IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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In the Republic of Moldova, the sweet cherry tree (*C. avium*) is one of the priority species the fruit of which are in demand on the domestic and foreign markets. In 2022, 37 varieties and 10 promising varieties were registered in the Plant Varieties Catalog. The approved range has made it possible to use intensive systems for establishing and maintaining new sweet cherry orchards at optimal density and with large and cost-effective yields.

The most productive sweet cherry cultivars and rootstock varieties used in modern cherry fruit production were studied. The vegetative rootstocks are uniform. They reduce tree growth rates, induce precocity, and allow fruit growers to harvest superior quality fruit in modern, high-density orchards. In the cultivation of sweet cherry trees, vegetative semi dwarfing (Gizela 5), semi-vigorous (Gizela 6, P HL-S, Krymsk 6), moderate vigorous (Krymsk 5, Maksma 14, Piku 1, Gisela 12) and vigorous (Colt, Maxma 60) rootstocks are used, which has recently received special attention in our country. The Ferrovia, Early Star (self-fertile) and Black Star (self-fertile) varieties are of moderate vigor with spreading crowns. They begin to bear fruit in the 5-6th year after planting, mainly on fruiting and middle-sized branches; they have medium and high unstable productivity. The Royal Helen, Stella (self-fertile), Skeena (self-fertile), Summit and Sweet Heart (self-fertile) varieties are of medium-high growth vigour with a well-rounded spherical crown, which bear fruit mainly on fruiting branches, and have high and constant productivity. The Folfer and Ferdous are of moderate to high vigor, have high branching capacity, high productivity and moderate crack resistance. Horticulturists prefer the Kordia and Regina (varieties. Moderate vigorous trees (Cordia) and vigorous trees (Regina) with spherical crowns bear fruit on fruiting and medium-sized branches and have high, unstable productivity. Their fruit ripen in the last ten days of June and early July. In modern fruit growing, the cherry growing system provides for the introduction of self-fertile varieties and vegetative rootstocks with a simple crown shape, which allow for full use of the nutrient space provided to the trees, early fruiting, high-quality and efficient harvesting, the mechanization of technological processes and the increased labor productivity during care and harvesting.

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