



g<sup>-1</sup> - 0.40 mg g<sup>-1</sup>).

" " " "

-

.

-

-

-

-

-

,

;

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

(*Ribes nigrum* L.)

(Hartmann,

2007; WCRF/AICR, 2008).

(Karjalainen et al., 2008; Hummer and Dale, 2010).

(Nikoli and

Milivojevi , 2010).

(Bordonaba and Tery, 2008 )

(Walker et al.,

2010; Vagiri et al., 2013). Zheng et al. (2009)

Kruger et al. (2011)

0.40 mg g<sup>-1</sup>). On the other hand, ' a anska Crna' and 'Titania' contained on average the highest contents of secondary metabolites. Climatic factors had a significant effect on the chemical properties of the fruit. High air temperatures and low precipitation amounts during berry formation and ripening promoted the accumulation of individual invert sugars, while low air temperatures and high precipitation amounts had a positive effect on the synthesis of organic acids and secondary metabolites in the fruit.

**Key words:** black currant, climatic factors, chemical properties

## INTRODUCTION

Black currant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) is a rich source of sugars and organic acids, important primary metabolites which play a key role in cell metabolism and reproduction (Hartmann, 2007; WCRF/AICR, 2008). Black currants stand out among soft fruit crops in terms of high contents of biologically active compounds. Also, they are a rich source of vitamin C, which contributes, along with bioactive phenolic compounds, to the high antioxidant activity of the fruit (Karjalainen et al., 2008; Hummer and Dale, 2010). Black currants thrive in humid mountainous areas characterised by cool summers, high rainfall amounts and high humidity levels. Climatic conditions in a particular environment affect plant longevity, productivity, fruit quality and overall profitability of black currant production (Nikoli and Milivojevi , 2010).

The chemical composition of the fruit is governed by the genetic predisposition of the cultivar (Bordonaba and Tery, 2008) and maturity stage, but also to a large extent by climatic factors (Walker et al., 2010; Vagiri et al., 2013). Zheng et al. (2009) and Kruger et al. (2011) determined that the contents of phenolic compounds, sugars, organic acids and ascorbic acid are affected by genotype, environment and agronomic practices. Also,

et al. (2008) Veberič et al. (2012) Scalzo

et al. (2008) and Veberič et al. (2012) found that biochemical composition is influenced by various factors, such as genotype, growth conditions, including environmental factors, and cultivation techniques.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of climatic factors in a black currant planting on the chemical properties and fruit quality of the tested cultivars.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was conducted at the Fruit Research Institute, a.o., Western Serbia, during 2012-2014. Seven cultivars were included: 'Ben Lomond', 'Ben Sarek', 'Titania', 'Črna', 'Tisel', 'Tiben' and 'Tsema'. The experiment was laid out in a randomised block design with seven cultivars, three replications and three soil management systems, giving a total of 315 black currant bushes.

The mean monthly and annual air temperatures for the experimental period 2012-2014 are given in Table 1, and the average monthly and annual precipitation totals are presented in Table 2.

2012-2014

“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”

315

2012-2014

1,

2.

1.

(°C),

( /A)  
( /GS)

**Table 1. Mean monthly air temperatures (°C), mean annual air temperatures (A) and mean air temperatures during the growing season (GS)**

Year/ month	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	A	GS
2012	1.8	2.5	6.8	12.2	17.3	24.1	26.6	25.4	20.9	13.8	9.5	1.4	13.1	20.0
2013	3.5	3.8	6.6	13.2	18.2	20.6	23.3	24.1	17.2	14.5	8.9	2.0	13.0	18.7
2014	4.0	6.6	10.2	12.8	16.1	21.1	22.7	22.1	17.5	13.5	8.9	3.1	13.2	18.0

2.

(mm m<sup>-2</sup>),

(A)

( /GS)

**Table 2. Average monthly precipitation totals (mm m<sup>-2</sup>), annual precipitation totals (A) and precipitation totals during the growing season (GS)**

Year/month	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	A	GS
2012	60	70	10	47	68	38	22	0	7	30	24	88	464	212
2013	51	68	66	37	78	61	10	62	87	17	40	4	581	352
2014	21	6	52	104	125	103	163	56	101	50	19	90	890	702

: 1.  
 ( , , ),  
 (HPLC, Waters Breeze,  
 Milford, USA),  
 210 - 327 nm. 2.  
 ( , ),  
 Hewlett-Packard HP1100,  
 (Palo,  
 Alto, , ),  
 490-600 nm. 3. ,  
 Folin-Ciocalteu (Singleton et al.,  
 1999), 765 nm.  
 4. ,  
 -  
 515 nm  
 700 nm. 5. ,  
 -  
 (Prieto et al.,  
 1999), 695 nm.  
 -  
 -  
 Fisher - ANOVA.  
 -  
 -  
 LSD  
 ,  
 P <0,01 P 0,05.

The chemical analysis of the fruit included the following: 1. individual invert sugars (glucose, fructose, sucrose), as determined by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC; Waters Breeze, Milford, USA), with absorbance measured in the range of 210 - 327 nm. 2. organic acids (citric acid, malic acid), as analysed using a Hewlett-Packard HP1100 system equipped with a photo diode array detector (Palo, Alto, CA, USA), with absorbance measured in the range of 490-600 nm. 3. total phenols, as assessed spectrophotometrically by the Folin-Ciocalteu method (Singleton et al., 1999), with absorbance measured at 765 nm. 4. total anthocyanins, as determined by the single pH and pH differential methods, with absorbances measured at 515 nm and 700 nm. 5. antioxidant capacity, as evaluated spectrophotometrically by the phosphomolybdenum method (Prieto et al., 1999), with absorbance measured at 695 nm.

The experimental data obtained during the three-year research period were subjected to statistical analysis using Fisher's two-factor analysis of variance - ANOVA. Significant differences between the mean values of the tested factors and the interaction means were determined by LSD test, with the significance levels set at P 0.01 and P 0.05.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Individual invert sugars play a central role in plant structure and metabolism at the cellular and whole organism levels. Glucose, fructose and sucrose are the major sugars in black currant fruits (Perez et al., 1997; Rubinskiene et al., 2006).  
 (Perez et al., 1997;  
 Rubinskiene et al., 2006).  
 ,  
 (Hummer and Barney, 2002;  
 Barney, 2002; Rubinskiene et al., 2006).  
 -  
 -  
 HPLC-DAD ,  
 -  
 3.

Individual invert sugars play a central role in plant structure and metabolism at the cellular and whole organism levels. Glucose, fructose and sucrose are the major sugars in black currant fruits (Perez et al., 1997; Rubinskiene et al., 2006). Among organic acids, citric acid is dominant, and malic acid is present in minor concentrations in black currant berries (Hummer and Barney, 2002; Rubinskiene et al., 2006). The contents of compounds in berry extracts were identified by the HPLC-DAD analysis, and the corresponding results on individual invert sugars and organic acids are shown in Table 3.

3.

**Table 3. Contents of individual invert sugars and organic acids in the fruit**

Cultivar/Year	Glucose (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	Fructose (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	Sucrose (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	Citric acid (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	Malic acid (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )
'Ben Lomond'	92.3±4.76 a	133.7±3.74 a	19.9±2.79 a	1.04±0.14 c	0.35±0.09 ab
'Ben Sarek'	75.2±5.26 e	126.9±2.65 b	9.73±1.64 d	1.00±0.11 c	0.35±0.09 ab
'Tsema'	82.0±6.31 bc	120.6±3.40 c	13.8±3.48 bc	1.23±0.30bc	0.31±0.07 b
'Titania'	80.9±5.39 cd	125.6±4.35 b	13.9±2.64 bc	1.40±0.25ab	0.32±0.06 b
'anska Crna'	79.9±2.69 cd	135.7±5.46 a	16.5±3.30 ab	1.45±0.21ab	0.38±0.06 a
'Tisel'	78.2±6.07 d	119.5±3.50 c	12.5±3.32 cd	1.62±0.27 a	0.40±0.07 a
'Tiben'	84.6±3.49 b	128.6±2.90 b	15.2±3.51 bc	1.36±0.20 b	0.35±0.08 ab
2012	95.2±1.88 a	140.3±2.08 a	6.24±0.49 a	0.59±0.02 c	0.13±0.01 c
2013	65.5±2.42 b	117.9±1.99 b	13.6±1.38 b	1.44±0.10 b	0.33±0.03 b
2014	86.1±1.63 c	125.6±1.59 c	25.3±1.17 c	1.94±0.08 a	0.63±0.02 a
ANOVA Cultivar (A)	**	**	**	**	*
ANOVA Year (B)	**	**	**	**	**
ANOVA A x B	**	**	ns	*	**

Means followed by different letters within the cultivar and treatment columns are significantly different at P ≤ 0.01 and P ≤ 0.05 according to LSD test and ANOVA (F-test) results

As revealed by the analysis of individual invert sugars and organic acids in the fruit, fructose was the dominant sugar, and citric acid was the major organic acid. The amount of fructose varied widely and significantly among black currant cultivars, being highest in 'anska Crna' and 'Ben Lomond', and lowest in 'Tsema' and 'Tisel'. There were also significant differences among cultivars in the levels of glucose and sucrose. The highest glucose and sucrose contents were found in 'Ben Lomond', and the lowest in 'Ben Sarek'. The amount of sucrose was very low in all cultivars. The present results are comparable to those obtained by Milivojevi et al. (2009), who recorded similar invert sugar contents. As for organic acids, 'Tisel' had the highest average content of citric and malic acid.

The results presented by Mladin et al. (2009) also indicated that black currant cultivars were characterised by high levels of organic acids. As suggested by Bordonaba and Terry (2008), sugar and acid contents and sugar to acid ratio in

black currants are important indicators of perceived taste, maturity/ripeness and general quality, which may serve as an index of consumer acceptance.

In addition to primary metabolites, plants produce a diverse array of organic compounds, known as secondary metabolites, to defend against herbivory and microbial infection. The results on secondary metabolites in black currant cultivars are presented in Table 4.

4.

4.

**Table 4. Contents of secondary metabolites in black currant cultivars**

Cultivar/Year		Total anthocyanins (mg C3G g <sup>-1</sup> )	Total phenols (mg GA g <sup>-1</sup> )	Total antioxidant capacity (mg AA/ g)
( ) Cultivar (A)	'Ben Lomond'	2.50±0.43 c	12.2±0.64 b	10.4±0.31 b
	'Ben Sarek'	1.70±0.08 d	12.5±0.75 b	10.6±0.41 b
	'Tsema'	2.42±0.12 c	11.9±0.61 b	10.5 ±0.53 b
	'Titania'	3.22±0.24 b	14.1±0.67 a	12.5±0.51 a
	'anskaCrna'	3.60±0.12 a	14.6±0.92	12.4±0.13 a
	'Tisel'	3.26±0.23 b	12.0±0.59 b	10.7±0.16 b
	'Tiben'	3.25±0.26 b	11.9±0.61 b	10.5±0.25 b
(B) Year (B)	2012	2.15±0.15 c	8.88±0.47 c	8.55±0.26 c
	2013	3.01±0.16 b	12.7±0.47 b	11.5±0.27 b
	2014	3.46±0.19 a	17.3±0.48 a	13.6±0.28 a
ANOVA				
Cultivar (A)		**	**	**
Year (B)		**	**	**
A x B		**	**	**

Means followed by different letters within the cultivar and treatment columns are significantly different at P ≤ 0.01 and P ≤ 0.05 according to LSD test and ANOVA (F-test) results

'anska Crna' and 'Titania' contained on average the highest contents of the secondary metabolites (total anthocyanins, total phenolics, and total antioxidant capacity), whereas the other cultivars exhibited variability in the studied parameters. Black currant berries had high levels of polyphenol compounds, especially anthocyanins, phenolic acid derivatives, flavonols, and proanthocyanidins, compared to other berries (e.g., strawberries and raspberries) (Karjalainen et al 2009; Mattila et al. 2011). Phenolic

et al., 2009; Mattila et al., 2011.).  
 (Schwarz and Hofmann, 2007, Laaksonen et al., 2013).  
 2014  
 2012  
 2014  
 2012  
 2.1°C  
 122.5 mm m-2  
 2014  
 2014  
 (Zurawicz et al., 2000; Kampuss and Strautina, 2004; Siksnianas et al., 2006; Mladin et al., 2009; Raudsepp et al., 2010),  
 Rubinskiene et al. (2006),  
 Kaldmae et al. (2013),

compounds are responsible for many of the positive, health-supporting effects of black currants, and contribute to most sensory properties of black currant berries (Schwarz and Hofmann, 2007; Laaksonen et al., 2013).

The highest levels of invert sugars were determined in 2012, and the lowest in 2014. The values for organic acids and secondary metabolites were highest in 2014 and lowest in 2012. Over the experimental years, air temperature was higher by 2.1°C and precipitation totals were lower by 122.5 mm m<sup>-2</sup> in 2012 than in 2014, which had a stimulating effect on the synthesis of invert sugars. In contrast, the synthesis of organic acids and secondary metabolites was higher in 2014, which had lower air temperatures and higher precipitation amounts compared to the other two experimental years.

Under the environmental conditions of a lake, higher levels of sugars, but lower levels of acids were determined in the tested cultivars compared to the findings of numerous authors (Zurawicz et al., 2000; Kampuss and Strautina, 2004; Siksnianas et al., 2006; Mladin et al., 2009; Raudsepp et al., 2010), who conducted their research in northern and northeastern parts of Europe at high altitudes.

These differences in the contents of invert sugars, organic acids and secondary metabolites are attributed to the effect of climatic factors on the biochemical composition of the fruit of the studied black currant cultivars. The present results are comparable to those obtained by Rubinskiene et al. (2006), who observed a positive correlation between air temperature and the content of sugars, and a negative correlation between rainfall and these parameters.

Similarly, as determined by Kaldmae et al. (2013), the content of sugars is positively correlated with temperature and negatively

. Vagiri et al. (2013)

(2009) . Zheng et al.

(2011) . Oancea et al.

al. (2008) , Kazimierczak et

correlated with rainfall. Vagiri et al. (2013) reported lower levels of acids but higher contents of total anthocyanins and phenols in currants grown in the south of Sweden than in those grown in the north of Sweden. As explained by the authors, the values obtained were the result of higher air temperatures during harvest season, which was not confirmed in the present study. Zheng et al. (2009) determined higher values for invert sugars and citric acids in black currants grown in southern Finland than in those grown in the north of Finland.

The authors found that the contents of sugars and acids were positively correlated with air temperature, but negatively correlated with the amount of rainfall. Oancea et al. (2011) found that black currants thrive in humid areas with high rainfall amounts, and that these environmental conditions have a positive effect on the level of total anthocyanins. On the other hand, Kazimierczak et al. (2008) reported that high air temperatures and low rainfall amounts contributed to the increased content of total anthocyanins. The conclusions drawn by these authors provide a full explanation of the results of the present experiment. The difference in the measured contents can be explained by strong variations in the synthesis and accumulation of chemical compounds under different climates.

## CONCLUSIONS

Black currant berries are an exceptionally rich source of sugars, organic acids and secondary metabolites; as such, they provide an interesting nutritional alternative.

'Ben Lomond', 'Titania' and 'Ča anška Crna' exhibited excellent chemical characteristics of the fruits, primarily in terms of their high antioxidant activity, but 'Ča anška Crna' stood out for its highest values for most of the tested parameters.

Climatic factors have an important effect on plant metabolism, and promote the



synthesis of different chemical compounds in the fruit, thus positively affecting the quality and commercial value of the fruit.

Given their good chemical characteristics, the tested cultivars are suitable for the agroenvironmental conditions of a ak.

Climatic factors should be considered when establishing commercial black currant orchards.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study is part of Project Ref. No.31093 financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

Ref. 3109,

### / REFERENCES

1. **Bordonaba, G.J. and A.L. Terry**, 2008. Biochemical profiling and chemometric analysis of seventeen UK-grown black currant cultivars (*Ribes nigrum* L.). *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 56(16), 7422-7430.
2. **Hummer, E.K. and A. Dale**, 2010. Horticulture of *Ribes*. *Forest Pathology*, 40, 251-263.
3. **Hummer, E.K. and L.D. Barney**, 2002. Currants. Crop Reports. *HortTechnology*, 12, 377-387.
4. **Hartmann, T.**, 2007. From waste products to ecochemicals: Fifty years of research of plant secondary metabolism. *Phytochemistry*, 68, 2831-2846.
5. **Kampuss, K. and S. Strautina**, 2004. Evaluation of blackcurrant genetic resources for sustainable production. *Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research*, 12, 147-158.
6. **Karjalainen, R., M. Anttonen, N. Saviranta, H. Hiltz, D. Stewart, G. J. McDougall, P. Mattila and R. Torronen**, 2008. A review on bioactive compounds in black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.) and their potential health-promoting properties. *Acta Horticulturae*, 839, 301-307.
7. **Karjalainen, K., K. Kemppainen and E. Van Raaij**, 2009. Non Compliant Work Behaviour in Purchasing: An Exploration of Reasons Behind Maverick Buying. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 84, 245-261.
8. **Kaldmae, H., A. Kikas, L. Arus and A. Libek**, 2013. Genotype and microclimate conditions influence ripening pattern and quality of blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) fruit. *Zemdirbyste-Agriculture*, 2(100), 164-174.
9. **Kazimierczak, R., E. Hallmann, A. Rusaczek and E. Rembalkowska**, 2008. Antioxidant content in black currant from organic and conventional cultivation. *Electronic Journal of Polish Agricultural Universities*  
<http://www.ejpau.media.pl/volume11/issue2/art-28.html>
10. **Kruger, E., H. Dietrich, M. Hey and D. C. Patz**, 2011. Effects of cultivar, yield, berry weight, temperature and ripening stage on bioactive compounds of black currants. *Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality*, 84, 40-46.

11. **Laaksonen, O., L. Mäkilä, R. Tahvonen, H. Kallio and B. Yang**, 2013. Sensory quality and compositional characteristics of blackcurrant juices produced by different processes. *Food Chemistry*, 138, 2421-2429.
12. **Mattila M. L., M. Kielenen, S. L. Linna, K. Jussila, H. Ebeling, R. Bloigu, R. M. Joseph and I. Moilanen**, 2011. Autism spectrum disorders according to DSM-IV-TR and comparison with DSM-5 draft criteria: an epidemiological study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 50(6), 583-592.
13. **Mladin P., M. Coman, A. Sasnauskas, E. Chitu, G. Mladin, I. Ancu, C. Nicola and M. Sumedrea**, 2009. Contributions to the agro-biological study of the black currant and blueberry within the cultivar evaluation European network. Scientific papers of the R.I.F.G. Pitesti, 25, 15-20.
14. **Milivojevi , J., V. Maksimovi and M. Nikoli** , 2009. Sugar and organic acids profile in the fruits of black and red currant cultivars. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 54(2), 105-117.
15. **Nikoli , M. and J. Milivojevi** , 2010. Small fruit crops. Production technology. Scientific Pomological Society of Serbia, Belgrade.
16. **Oancea, S., A. Cotinghiu and L. Oprean**, 2011. Studies investigating the change in total anthocyanins in black currant with postharvest cold storage. *Annals of the Romanian Society for cell biology*, 16, 359-363.
17. **Perez, A. G., R. Olias, J. Espada, J. M. Olias and C. Sanz**, 1997. Rapid determination of sugars, nonvolatile acids, and ascorbic acid in strawberry and other fruits. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 45, 3545-3549.
18. **Prieto, P., M. Pineda and M. Aguilar**, 1999. Spectrophotometric quantitation of antioxidant capacity through the formation of a phosphomolybdenum complex: Specific application to the determination of vitamin E. *Analytical Biochemistry*, 269, 337-341.
19. **Raudsepp, P., H. Kaldmae, A. Kikas, A. V. Libek and T. Pussa**, 2010. Nutritional quality of berries and bioactive compounds in the leaves of black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.) cultivars evaluated in Estonia. *Journal of Berry Research*, 1, 53-59.
20. **Rubinskiene, M., P. Viskelis, I Jasutiene, P. Duchovskis and C. Bobinas**, 2006. Changes in biologically active constituents during ripening in black currants. *Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research*, 14, 237-246.
21. **Singleton, V. L., R. Orthofer and R. M. Lamuela-Raventos**, 1999. Analysis of total phenols and other oxidation substrates and antioxidants by means of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. *Methods in Enzymology*, 299, 152-178.
22. **Schwarz, B. and T. Hofmann**, 2007. Sensory-guided decomposition of red currant juice (*Ribes rubrum*) and structure determination of key astringent compounds. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 55, 1394-1404.
23. **Siksnianas, T., V. Stanys, A. Sasnauskas, P. Viskelis and M. Rubinskiene**, 2006. Fruit quality and processing potential in five new blackcurrant cultivars. *Journal of Fruit Ornamental Plant Research*, 14(2), 265-271.
24. **Scalzoa, J., A. Currieb, J. Stephencs, T. McGhird and P. Alspachc**, 2008. The anthocyanin composition of different *Vaccinium*, *Ribes* and *Rubus* genotypes. *BioFactors*, 34, 13-21.
25. **Vagiri, M., A. Ekholm, E. Oberg, E. Johansson, C. S. Andersson and K. Rumpunen**, 2013. Phenols and ascorbic acid in black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.): Variation due to genotype, location, and year. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 61, 9298-9306.

26. **Veberič, R., A. Slatnar, J. Jakopič, F. Štampar and M. Mikulič Petkovšek**, 2012. Primary and secondary metabolites in fruits. In: Paper and abstract proceedings 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian congress of fruit and grapevine producers with international, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia, 9, pp. 55-62.
27. **Walker, P.G., R. Viola, M. Woodhead, L. Jorgensen, S. L. Gordon, R. M. Brennan and R. D. Hancock**, 2010. Ascorbic acid content of black currant fruit is influenced by both genetic and environmental factors. *Functional Plant Science and Biotechnology*, 4(1), 40-52.
28. WCRF/AICR (World Cancer Research Fund) 2008. Food, nutrition, physical activity, and the prevention of cancer: A global perspective. American Institute for Cancer Research, Washington.
29. **Zheng, J., B. Yang, S. Tuomasjukka, S. Ou and H. Kallio**, 2009. Effects of latitude and weather conditions on contents of sugars, fruit acids and ascorbic acid in black currant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) juice. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 57, 2977-2987.
30. **Zurawicz, E., S. Pluta and J. Danek**, 2000. Small fruit breeding at the Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice, Poland. *Acta Horticulturae*, 538, 457-461.

## (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.)

4700

35,

### Results from testing of pruning operations in plants of chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.)

Emilian Popescu

Experimental Station of Livestock and Agriculture, 35 Nevyastata Str., 4700 Smolyan, Bulgaria

E-mail: [popescu@abv.bg](mailto:popescu@abv.bg)

Received: 05.05.2017

Accepted: 07.02.2018

Published: 20.09.08.2018

#### SUMMARY

This study, conducted in the period 2013-2016 in the experimental field of Experimental Station Stockbreeding and Agriculture-Smolyan, aims to establish efficient pruning operations and related methods for plant growth direction of chokeberry.

In the investigation were taken old and young fruit-bearing plants, created and grown in soil and climatic conditions typical for 1530 m above sea level.

During the vegetation period there are carried out biometric measurements and phenological observations on plant height and some reproductive manifestations – flowering, fruiting.

The data from the study show that the removal of the broken, splicing and branches over the age of 6 years, and shortening the greatly increasing in height tends to 20-25 cm and respectively limit the growth of side main branches by removing 30 to 35 cm from them in old

30-35 cm

-

4, 5 6

-

-

5- - 6-

30-35 (Mondeshka, 2005; Mondeshka et al., 2008).

25

3.0 m

-

-

-

-

fruit-bearing plants of chokeberry create more favorable conditions for the growth and development of plants. As a result are formed large and more flowers and fruits, with limited peripheral location.

Removal of annual shoots in the formed bushes with 4, 5 and 6 main branches in the young fruit-bearing plants of chokeberry prevents formation of a large number of branches, compression of the bush and helps for better clearance of the plants and making better use of the space around them. There are formed larger and good quality fruits.

**Key words:** chokeberry, old and young plantations, pruning operations

## INTRODUCTION

Pruning is important agrotechnical measure, which regulates the growth and fruiting of fruit trees. In chokeberry, pruning is needed to be done during the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> year of cultivation, after having been formed bush with about 30-35 branches (Mondeshka, 2005; Mondeshka et al., 2008).

In the old fruit-bearing plantations of chokeberry, over the age 25 of years, maintaining this number shoots adopted for good fruiting, appeared difficult process. Firstly, this is explained by the development of bulky shrubs in both horizontal and vertical directions.

The main branches reach up to 3.0 m length, while touching each other in the rows and between the rows, causes the movement between them during conducting of agrotechnical measures become impossible. Branches with peripheral position under the weight of flowers, fruits and snow especially in years with heavy snow bend to the ground and often break down.

Some branches located closer to the middle of the bush are even tangling

1530 m

1.

20

•

•

•

20-25 cm;

•

30-35 cm;

•

2

2.

2, 3, 4, 5 6

and they orient themselves incorrectly in space. Cutting of all these branches is accompanied by development of a large number of annual shoots characterized by vigorous growth. All this worsens the conditions of lightening and aeration, which leads to poor fruiting and ripening of fruits on different dates. It is obvious, it is necessary to carry out suitable pruning that contribute to better development, fruit-bearing and longer life of plants.

The aim of the study is testing and establishment of efficient pruning operations and connected with them ways of direction the plant growing, providing better development and fruit-bearing.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

In the study have been taken young and old fruit-bearing plantations of chokeberry grown in the soil and climatic conditions of the experimental field, located at 1530 m above sea level.

1. In the old fruit-bearing plantations aged over 20 years it has been studied the effect of application of the following pruning operations:

- Removing weak, broken, outdated and incorrectly oriented in space branches;

- Removing densely and evenly spaced annual shoots;

- Shortening the vigorously increasing in a vertical direction branches to 20-25 cm;

- Limiting the growth of side main branches by cutting of their top to 30-35 cm;

- Rejuvenation pruning of plants, consisting of removing branches over the age of 2 years.

2. In young four fruit-bearing plantations of chokeberry for maintaining the formed bushes with 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 main branches have been conducted the

•  
 ;  
 •  
 .  
 t/da ),  
 (N – 5-6 kg/da, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> – 6-8 kg/da)

•  
 ;  
 •  
 20-25 cm  
 30-35 cm  
 (2.55-2.75 m)  
 (1.50-1.55 m)  
 m) ( 1).

following pruning:  
 • Removing broken and incorrectly oriented in space shoots;  
 • Removing of annual shoots.

The plants are grown in a background of fertilization with organic fertilizers (2-2.5 t/da manure) applied every three years, and respectively with mineral fertilizers (N – 5-6 kg/da, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> – 6-8 kg/da) annually introduced.

The pruning operations are performed at the end of the winter period before movement of nutrients and appearance of the leaves.

Observations and biometric measurements consist in:

• Determining the degree of development of the branches and respectively of bushes by measuring the plant height;  
 • Studying of flowering and fruiting by performing periodic phenological observation and weighing of the resulting production.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the *old fruit-bearing plantations of chokeberry* the cutting of vigorously increasing) in height branches up to 20-25 cm, and respectively of lateral main branches up to 30-35 cm determines the development of lower (2.55-2.75 m) and with a limited diameter (1.50-1.55 m) bushes (Table 1). This facilitates the passage between the rows while the are performing various agrotechnical activities, especially harvesting. Moreover, bushes gain strength and stability to climatic factors as well as during the growing season and during the winter.

1.

**Table 1. Data on growth and development of chokeberry plants, average for the experimental period**

Variant	( ) Height of the plants (bush) m	Diameter of bush m	Flowering		Fruitfulness
			Beginning of flowering	Available way of blossoms on branches	Date of harvesting maturity of fruits
Old plantation					
Control plants	2.80-3.00	2.65-2.70	27.05-3.06	Mainly peripheral	27.08-3.09 4-7.09
Plants with pruning	2.55-2.75	1.50-1.55	27.05-3.06	Tendency toward evenly	25-30.08
Young plantation					
Control plants	1.31	1.27	27.05-3.06	Tendency toward peripheral	25-30.08
2 Plants with 2 main branches	1.20	1.25	27.05-3.06	Evenly	25-30.08
3 Plants with 3 main branches	1.25	1.05	27.05-3.06	Evenly	25-30.08
4 Plants with 4 main branches	1.36	1.25	27.05-3.06	Evenly	25-30.08
5 Plants with 5 main branches	1.40	1.25	27.05-3.06	Evenly	25-30.08
6 Plants with 6 main branches	1.38	1.21	27.05-3.06	Evenly	25-30.08

- The removing of weak, broken and  
 - incorrectly oriented in space branches  
 - create conditions for good lightening and  
 - aeration of plants. As a result of this,  
 - there are formed more blossoms evenly  
 - located on the branches. The fruits are  
 - larger, and they enter in harvesting  
 - maturity simultaneously (25-30.08).  
 (25-30.08).



(30-32),  
,  
,  
( 1)  
,  
2.65-2.70 m.

2.80-3.00 m

- The excising of annual shoots
- helps maintaining optimum number of
- branches in the bush (30-32) needed for
- good fruit-bearing. The pruning for
- rejuvenation leads to the development of
- vital plants as in the first two years it is
- observed vigorous vegetative growth of
- shoots without formation of reproductive
- organs.

In the control plants – no pruning (Photo 1) there is vigorous vegetative development, as the main branches reach average 2.80-3.00 m length, and the bushes in diameter are average 2.65-2.70 m. As a result of this, many of the branches bend to the ground and break in consequence of which the passage through rows is practically impossible. The bees in flight are prevented, as more of them are orientated to the inflorescences and flowers located at the top and on the periphery of the plants.



1.  
**Photo 1. Control plants**

(27.08-3.09 4-7.09).

- Regarding the time of the flowering there are no differences compared with pruning plants, but the fruit ripening occurs on different dates (27.08-3.09 and 4-7.09).

- In the *four young fruit-bearing plants of chokeberry* the removing of evolved annual shoots is important for maintaining the bushes formed during the first two years of development with 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 main branches (Photos 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6).

6

( 2, 3, 4, 5  
2, 3, 4, 5 6).



2. 2  
Photo 2. Plant with 2 main branches



3. 3  
Photo 3. Plant with 3 main branches



4. 4  
**Photo 4. Plant with 4 main branches**



5. 5  
**Photo 5. Plant with 5 main branches**



**6. 6**  
**Photo 6. Plant with 6 main branches**

<p>(27.05-3.06)          (25-30.08),          ( 1).</p>	<p>-            10-15 cm  </p>	<p>The removing of broken branches and shortening the length of the vigorously growing branches to 10-15 cm helps creation and maintaining good form of bushes. Characteristic for all these plants is simultaneously flowering (27.05-3.06) and ripening of fruit (25-30.08), and their uniform placement on the branches (Table 1).</p>
---	------------------------------------	---

	3	
	4, 5, 6	
4	5	350 kg/da,
300 kg/da	6	
	400-450 kg/da.	
	350	400 kg/da.

In the bushes with 3 main branches there is a risk of breaking due to a greater angle between them and their poor soldering at the bottom.

The bushes with 4, 5, and 6 main branches show themselves as perspective, because for them the conditions for growth and development are considerably better. They are distinguished by higher strength to climatic factors wind, snow and that the weight of fruits and leaves is distributed on the branches more evenly.

The resulting production in the fourth year of cultivation in the bushes with 4 and 5 main branches reaches 300 kg/da respectively 350 kg/da, while in those with 6 main branches it is between 400-450 kg/da. In the plants with pruning in the old plantation the resulting production is between 350 and 400 kg/da.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Removing broken, tangling 6 branches over the age of six years and extra annual shoots in old fruit-bearing plantations of chokeberry create more favourable conditions for the growth and development of the main branches. There are formed more flowers and fruits, evenly distributed on the branches;
- Removing of annul shoots in the bushes with 4, 5 and 6 main branches in the young fruit-bearing plants of chokeberry prevents the formation of large numbers of branches and compression of the bush, and helps for better clearance of the plants and making better use of the space around them. There are formed larger and good quality fruits.

## / REFERENCES

1. **Mondeshka, P.**, 2005. Medicinal plants. Zemizdat, Sofia (Bg).
2. **Mondeshka, P., E. Popescu, M. Mondeshka-Nedyalkova**, 2008. Results of a trial of black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) growing under the high-mountain soil and climatic conditions of the Smolyan region. *Journal of Mountain on the Balkans*, 11(7), 1546-1568.

2012-2017 .

1, 2\*, 1  
1  
2 120, " 10,

## Monitoring of phytoplasma infections in the orchard plantations of Bulgaria in the period 2012-2017

Dora Panajotova<sup>1</sup>, Zhelyu Avramov<sup>2\*</sup>, Mariana Laginova<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine, BFSA, 120 N. Moushanov Blvd., Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>University of Forestry, 10 Kliment Ohridski Blvd., Sofia, Bulgaria

\* -mail: zhavramov@ltu.bg

Received: 14.05.2018

Accepted: 12.09.2018

Published: 20.09.2018

### SUMMARY

2012-2017 .  
1470 ha  
330  
235 14000 da,  
- 84  
3500 da, 5  
91,5 da, 4  
65,2 da 2  
da. - 644  
2726  
20 54

- In the period 2012-2017 new orchard plantations of European and traditional Bulgarian varieties were planted on an area of 1470 ha. To prevent a possible spread of quarantine and economically significant diseases, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency launched a monitoring programme for quarantine pests on fruit trees, including phytoplasma infections. Throughout the years 330 orchard plantations, of which stone fruit varieties – 235 on an area of 1400 ha, pome orchards – 84 on an area of about 350 ha, 5 walnut plantations – 9.15 ha, 4 mixed orchards – 6.52 ha and 2 plantations of dog rose – 64.4 ha were controlled. The circulation and import of orchard planting material was constantly monitored and all nurseries in Bulgaria were controlled. 2726 plant samples (from Border Inspection Points and 20 Regional Directorates) and 54 numbers of insect vectors (*Cacopsylla pyri*, *Psylla pyri*, etc.) were performed in Central Laboratory of

*pyri* (Cacopsylla pyri, Psylla  
 ).  
 CTAB  
 ( 1 7/U3U5)  
 (f01/r01)  
 Apple Proliferation, Pear decline, European  
 Stone Fruit Yellows phytoplasmas  
 ( , , ).  
 , , , ,  
 :  
 , ,

Plant Quarantine for phytoplasma  
 analysis. Total DNA was extracted from  
 plant tissue or a preliminarily determined  
 specimen in CTAB buffer. The laboratory  
 analysis was performed by Nested PCR  
 with two universal primer pairs  
 ( 1 7/U3U5) and specific ones (f01/r01)  
 with following RFLP analysis for final  
 identification and species affiliation.

- The results confirm the spread of the  
 following infection: Apple Proliferation,  
 Pear decline, European Stone Fruit  
 Yellows phytoplasmas, which were found  
 in new regions, as well as an extended  
 range of spreading of their vectors in  
 Northern Bulgaria (Targovishte, Vidin,  
 Shumen). The regions where infections  
 were found and measures taken to isolate  
 and destroy the agents, such as  
 Kyustendil, Plovdiv, Sliven, Burgas, Ruse,  
 remain potentially dangerous in terms of  
 disease spreading.

- This is the result of the non-compliance  
 with the instructions of the phytosanitary  
 inspectors to destroy the infected trees  
 and ban the collection of cuttings, as well  
 as of the lack of preventive measures  
 such as equipment disinfection, vector  
 control, etc.

**Key words:** phytoplasma  
 pathogens, fruit threes, Bulgaria

## INTRODUCTION

Mycoplasma diseases in plants in  
 Bulgaria were first reported in 1970  
 (Kowachevski, 1971). Such diseases  
 were reported in fruit plants as well  
 (Trifonov, 1965; Hristova, 1973). With the  
 improvement of the methods for  
 identification of phytoplasmas, new  
 species have been detected on the  
 territory of Bulgaria such as phytoplasma  
 in pears (Topchiiska and Sakalieva,  
 2001), European stone fruit yellows  
 phytoplasma (Topchiiska and Sakalieva,  
 2002), Stolbur in cherries (Avramov et al.,  
 2011), Pear decline (Etropolska, 2011),  
 Apple proliferation (Borisova and

1970 . (Kowachevski,  
 1971).  
 (Trifonov,  
 1965; Hristova, 1973).  
 (Topchiiska and Sakalieva, 2001), European  
 stone fruit yellows phytoplasma (Topchiiska  
 and Sakalieva, 2002), Stolbur  
 (Avramov et al., 2011), Pear decline  
 (Etropolska, 2011), Apple proliferation



(Borisova and Kemenova, 2016).  
 2012-2017  
 14.7  
 ( )  
 ( )  
 (Etropolska et al., 2012; Avramov et al., 2013).  
 Apple Proliferation,  
 Pear decline European Stone Fruit  
 Yellows phytoplasma

1 (2015).

Kemenova 2016).

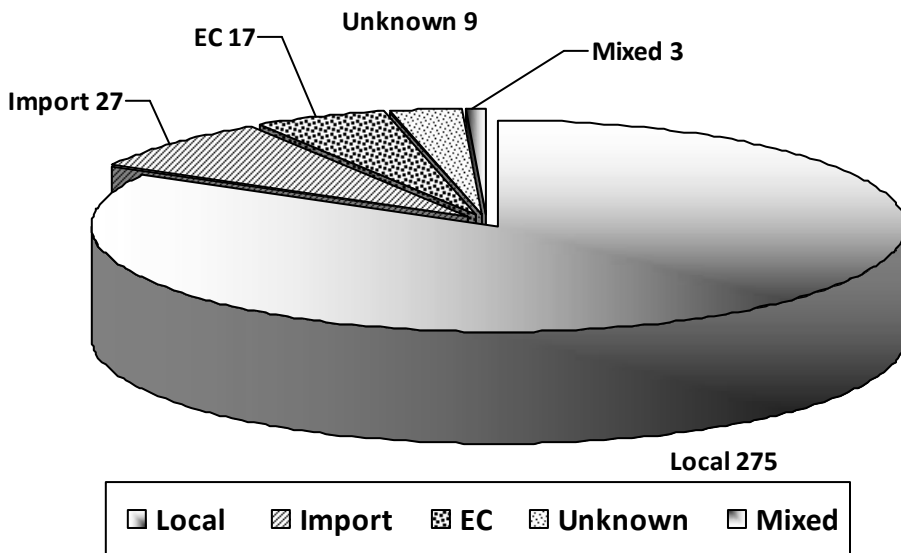
In the period 2012 – 2017 there were planted 14700 ha of new fruit plants of European and traditional Bulgarian varieties. To prevent the potential spread of quarantine and economically significant diseases, the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine with the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency launched a monitoring programme for quarantine pests in fruit plants, including phytoplasma infections (Etropolska et al., 2012; Avramov et al., 2013). The three phytoplasma species included in this programme, namely Apple Proliferation, Pear decline and European Stone Fruit Yellows phytoplasma, are quarantine types and are described in Annex No 1 to Ordinance No 8 on Phytosanitary Control (2015). They are some of the most economically significant diseases both for many regions of Europe, and for Bulgaria itself.

#### **Aim**

The main purpose is to carry out surveys throughout the country to clarify the distribution of phytoplasma on orchards in Bulgaria. This will lead to prognosis of phytoplasmic infection based on the results obtained and will help to undertake measures of control in orchards created with imported material and in nurseries producing fruit propagation material.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The phytosanitary inspectors of the Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSD) perform annual monitoring in the whole country to identify the spread of phytoplasma in Bulgaria and take adequate control measures in the orchard plantations created with imported materials and mainly in nurseries producing fruit trees planting material. Control is exercised also over imports of planting material at border inspection points (BIP) and covers inspection of documents and identification, as well as sampling.



1.  
**Fig. 1. Observed orchards by origin of the planting material**

330	-	.	-
14000 da,	-	235	-
3500 da, 4	-		-
- 65,2 da. 5	-		-
- 91,5 da,	2012-2017	.	
2044	.		
2726	.		
	2	.	
	-		
	.		

#### Monitoring periods and objects

The monitorings were made in the autumn, when there is highest concentration of phytoplasma in the aerial parts of the plants. The monitoring covered 330 orchard plantations, out of which 235 with drupe varieties on over 1400 ha, 84 with pome varieties on around 350 ha, 4 mixed orchards on 6.52 ha and 5 walnut plantations covering 9.15 ha. In the period 2012-2017 there were 2,044 inspections in the mentioned plantations and 2,726 plant samples were taken. During the sampling the main focus was on nurseries with mother trees and 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursery plants and on orchards created with imported planting material, and the samples were taken from symptomatic and asymptomatic trees.

Table 1. Phytosanitary control during the period 2012-2017

Year	Fruit nurseries/plots		Orchards/plots			
	Units	da	Apple and Pear		Stone fruits	
			Units	da	Units	da
2012	262	2526,4	88	3738,1	155	11781,2
2013	276	2207,4	114	4370,9	171	10948,2
2014	274	2168,3	90	4831,2	168	12503,5
2015	264	2328,2	82	3799,1	182	13221,9
2016	264	2210,4	84	3592,5	233	14353,9
2017	243	1988,6	84	3060,4	238	13928,5

2726  
(  
) 54

(*Cacopsylla pyri*, *Psylla pyri* (Carraro et al., 1998; White et al., 1998; Etropolska, 2011; Etropolska, 2015).

0,5 1 g,

–

### PCR

(Doyle and Doyle, 1990)

CTAB  
Marzachi et al., (1998).

Nested PCR

1/ 7 (Deng and Hiruki, 1991; Schneider et al., 1996), U3/U5 (Lorenz et al. 1995)

f01/r01 (Lorenz et al., 1995)

RFLP  
RsaI/AluI

(Lee et al., 1998).

### Sampling

For phytoplasma analysis in the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine there were submitted 2726 plant samples from border checkpoints (imported mainly from Serbia and Turkey) and from the Regional Food Safety Directorates and 54 insects, phytoplasma vectors (*Cacopsylla pyri*, *Psylla pyri* (Carraro et al., 1998; White et al., 1998; Etropolska, 2011; Etropolska, 2015).

For analysis of the plant material there was taken conductive tissue or stalks of 0.5 to 1 g, and from the vectors – entire insects.

### PCR method

Total DNA was extracted from plant tissue (Doyle & Doyle, 1990) or preliminarily determined insect in a CTAB buffer following the protocol of Marzachi et al. (1998). The laboratory analysis was made through Nested PCR with two pairs of universal primers 1/ 7 (Deng & Hiruki, 1991; Smart et al., 1996; Schneider et al., 1996), U3/U5 (Lorenz et al. 1995) and specific primers f01/r01 (Lorenz et al., 1995) with a subsequent RFLP analysis with the help of RsaI/AluI restriction enzymes for conclusive identification and species identification (Lee et al., 1998).

### RESULTS

A total of 2817 PCR analyses were made on the 2780 samples submitted to the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine for laboratory tests for

2780

PCR .

2817

Pear Decline

Phytoplasma MLO

Apricot chlorotic

Leaf Roll MLO /syn. ESFY/

2012-

2017

- Apple Proliferation

- Pear Decline Phytoplasma

- Apricot chlorotic Leaf Roll phytoplasma /European Stone Fruit Yellows/

phytoplasma infections.

In the samples taken at border checkpoints upon imports of planting material there were identified infections with Pear Decline Phytoplasma MLO in Ankara pears imported from Turkey and Apricot chlorotic Leaf Roll MLO /syn. ESFY/ in Oblacinska sour cherries imported from Serbia.

In the country the following infection was identified over the period 2012-017:

- with Apple Proliferation in the regions of Kyustendil, Pazardzhik and Plovdiv;

- with Pear Decline Phytoplasma in the regions of Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Yambol, Shumen, Silistra, Ruse and Montana;

- with Apricot chlorotic Leaf Roll phytoplasma /European Stone Fruit Yellows/ in the regions of Blagoevgrad, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Burgas, Silistra, Targovishte, Lovech, Veliko Tarnovo, Montana and Vidin.

## 2.

**Table 2. Confirmed phytoplasma infection each year in RFSD**

/RFSD	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			Year
	AP	Pd	Esfy	AP	Pd	Esfy	AP	Pd	Esfy	AP	Pd	Esfy	AP	Pd	Esfy	AP	Pd	Esfy	
Blagoevgrad																		2	2
Kjustendil		1			4			4		2									11
Pazardjik	2				1				3		1			1					8
Plovdiv	3				20									1					24
St. Zagora											1			1				1	3
Haskovo		2			2														4
Yambol		1																	1
Sliven			6		1													1	8
Bourgas			3			3								1					7
Silistra		2						2						1					5
Shumen											2							2	4
Russe		4			5														9
Targoviste																		2	2
Lovech																		1	1
V. Tarnovo												1							1
Montana								2				1						1	4
Vidin																		1	1
Total	5	10	9	0	33	3	0	8	3	2	4	2	0	2	3	0	3	8	95
	24			36			11			8			5			11			

2012-2017  
10000

II-

## CONCLUSIONS

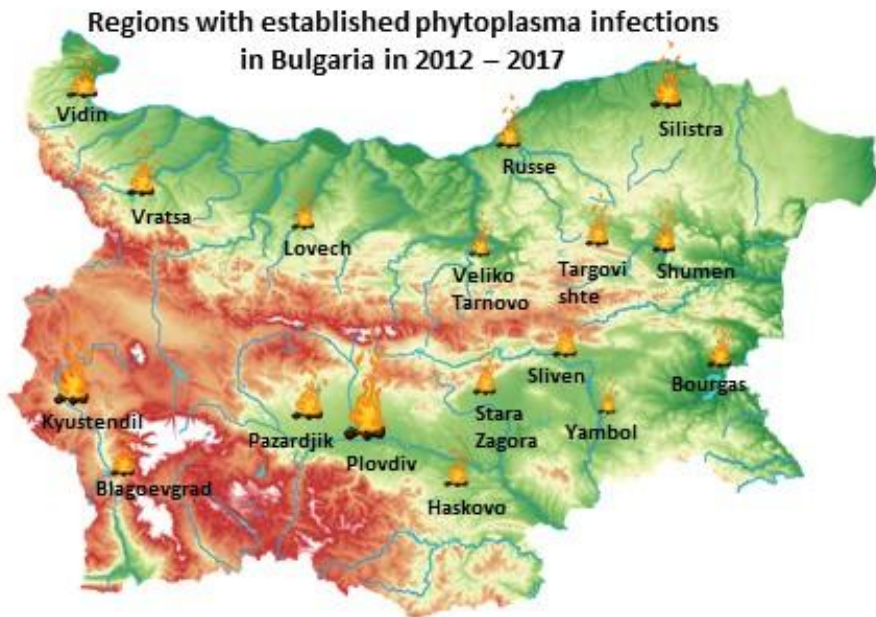
In the period 2012-2017 there were destroyed a total of over 10,000 mother trees and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursery plants – improved with grafts from infected mother tree varieties, and fruit bearing varieties. All producers of orchard planting material where phytoplasma infection was identified were given instructions in advance to destroy the infected trees and to take preventive measures (disinfection of the existing tools, control for *Cacopsylla* vectors and prohibition on planting a new tree on the place where the destroyed tree was planted). The infected trees were destroyed with incineration. Subsequent additional samples were taken as well.

Based on the analysis of the spread of these pests, as well as on some first results of the monitoring of vectors it became necessary to develop additional measures in the Official Monitoring Programme. The overall strategy including – increase of the number of plant samples and vector samples in risk regions; development of preventive measures and focusing the monitoring on vectors in the whole country to obtain a complete picture of their spread by regions and of their population density. There has to be prepared an effective scheme for fighting them, because one of the problems currently is the few registered plant protection products.

The persistence demonstrated by these pests over the years shows a trend of their permanent establishment in the orchard plantations in the country.

A major problem in fruit production in our opinion is the lack of specialized bases for mother trees. There occurs need to be taken measures for the creation of such bases at well-isolated locations with certified base material and application of all the good practices for protection of the trees' health. Such a

- project will need a legislative and financial support with the involvement of all stakeholders – producers, control institutions and science.



2. 2012-2017  
**Fig. 2. Regions with established phytoplasma infections in Bulgaria in 2012-2017**

### / REFERENCES

1. **Avramov, Zh., N. Contaldo, A. Bertaccini and D. Sakalieva**, 2011. First report of stolbur phytoplasmas in *Prunus avium* in Bulgaria. *Bulletin of insectology*, 64, (Supplement): 71-72.
2. **Avramov, G., A. Etropolska and D. Chavdarova**, 2013. Results from official monitoring of the spread of phytoplasmas in fruit tree species in Bulgaria. *Plant Protection*, 7: 13-14 (Bg).
3. **Borisova, A. and I. Kamenova**, 2016. Occurrence of phytoplasmas of the apple proliferation group in fruit trees in Kyustendil region of Bulgaria. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science*, 22: 465-469 (Bg).
4. **Carraro, L., R. Osler, N. Loi, P. Ermacora and E. Refatti**, 1998; Transmision of European Fruit Yellows Phytoplasma by *Cacopsylla pruni*. *Journal of Plant Pathology*, 80 (3), 233-239.
5. **Deng, S. and C. Hiruki**, 1991. Amplification of 16S rRNA genes from culturable and nonculturable Mollicutes. *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, 14, 53–61.
6. **Doyle, J. J., and J. L. Doyle**, 1990. Isolation of plant DNA from fresh tissue. *Focus*, 12, 13-15.

7. **Etropolska, A., B. Jarausch, M. Herdemertens and W. Jarausch**, 2011. Development of specific detection primers for „Candidatus Phytoplasma pyri“. *Bulletin of Insectology*, 64: 87-88. I
8. **Etropolska, A. and M. Laginova**, 2012. Monitoring distribution of fruit tree phytoplasmas in Bulgaria from 2007 until 2011. 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Virus and Other Transmissible Diseases of Fruit Crops, Rome, 03-08 June, pp. 108.
9. **Etropolska, A.**, 2015. Molecular characterization of fruit tree phytoplasmas and their vectors in Bulgaria. Summary of PhD thesis, UF, Sofia, Bulgaria (Bg).
10. **Hristova, D.**, 1973. Mycoplasmas, pests causing diseases on plants. *vostarstvo*, 52(10), 34-37 (Bg)
11. **Kowachevski, I.**, 1971. Mycoplasmas – a new group pests, causing diseases on plants. *Priroda*, 20, 2, 67-68. (Bg)
12. **Lee, I-M., D. E. Gundersen-Rindal, R. E. Davis and I. M. Bartoszyk**, 1998. Revised classification scheme of phytoplasmas based on RFLP analyses of 16S rRNA and ribosomal protein gene sequences. *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*, 48, 1153-1169.
13. **Lorenz, K-H., B. Schneider, U. Ahrens and E. Seemüller**, 1995. Detection of the apple proliferation and pear decline phytoplasmas by PCR amplification of ribosomal and nonribosomal DNA. *Phytopathology*, 85, 771-776.
14. **Marzachi, C., F. Veratti and D. Bosco**, 1998. Direct PCR detection of phytoplasmas in experimentally infected insects. *Annals of Applied Biology*, 133, 45-54.
15. Ordinance 8 from 27.02.2015 for Phytosanitary Control / *State gazette*, 10 from 27.I, 19 from 13.03.2015, in act 13.03.2015, change SG No 31 from 10 April 2018/.
16. **Schneider, B., E. Seemüller, C. Smart and B. Kirkpatrick**, 1995. Phylogenetic classification of plant pathogenic mycoplasma-like organisms or phytoplasmas. In: Razin, S. and Tully, J.G. Molecular and diagnostic procedures in mycoplasmaology. Academic Press, New York, USA, 369-380.
17. **Topchiiska, M. and D. Sakalieva**, 2001, Detection of Pear decline phytoplasma by Polymerase chain reaction in Bulgaria. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science*, 7(1), 11-14.
18. **Topchiiska, M. and D. Sakalieva**, 2002, PCR procedure for detection and identification of European stone fruit yellows (ESFY) phytoplasma on tree of Prunus varieties, *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science*, 8 (1), 19-22.
19. **Trifonov, D.**, 1965. Viruses on apple, apple proliferation, witches' broom. I. Spreading and damages. *Gradinarstvo i lozarska nauka*, 2(4), 437-444 (Bg).
20. **White, D. T., L. L. Blackwall, P. T. Scott and K. B. Walsh**, 1998. Phylogenetic positions of phytoplasmas associated with dieback, yellow crinkle and mosaic diseases of papaya, and their proposed inclusion in 'Candidatus Phytoplasma australiense' and a new taxon, 'Candidatus Phytoplasma australasia'. *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*, 48, 941-951.