

(*Lycium barbarum* L.)

, 4000 ,

Phenological Manifestations in Two Goji Berry Varieties (*Lycium barbarum* L.)

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

2017-2019 .
:
barbarum L.) – JB 1 JB 2
3 m 2 m
2014 .
70-90 cm.
.
(JB 1 JB 2)
.
,
JB 2
JB 1.
JB 1 JB 2

The study was conducted in the experimental base of the Department of Fruit Growing at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the period 2017-2019. *In vitro* propagated plants of two varieties: goji berry of the species (*Lycium barbarum* L.) – JB 1 and JB 2 are planted at distances 3 m x 2 m in June 2014 and are shaped like trees with a stem height of 70-90 cm. Single flowers and fruits the plants formed in the year of planting.

The aim of the present study was to obtain information on the time of occurrence of the main phenophases in two *in vitro* propagated goji berry varieties (JB 1 and JB 2) when grown in Southern Bulgaria and to give more clarity about the relationship between the occurrence of phenophases and thermal conditions.

The results of the study showed that bud burst, which marks the beginning of vegetation, in variety JB 2 begins about a week earlier than in JB 1.

Mass flowering in varieties JB 1 and JB 2 occurs in late May and damages from the

30 40 JB 1 JB 2
 JB 2
 a
 (*Lycium barbarum* L.).
barbarum L., *Lycium*

frost return in goji berry are not possible.

In JB 1 and JB 2 varieties it took 30 to 40 days from mass flowering to fruit ripening. During the years of this research, it made an impression the second wave of mass flowering in variety JB 2 in August.

Further studies are needed to determine the periodicity of flowering in goji berry (*Lycium barbarum* L.) varieties.

Key words: Goji berry, flowering phenophases, ripening, *Lycium barbarum* L.

INTRODUCTION

One of the main factors determining the great diversity of the assortment of fruit crops and the products obtained from them is the climate. The goji berry species originates in Asia and is naturally adaptable to the conditions of this continent. With the establishment of the beneficial properties of the goji berry plant (fruits and vegetative parts), studies of the suitability for its cultivation of the plant in many parts of the world began.

Growth and productivity of goji berries are related to climatic conditions. An effective temperature sum of 3450 °C and 1640 hours of light is required for good growth and fruiting (Jing et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2012). High quality fruits are obtained under irrigation conditions and high temperatures in summer, while in cold and cloudy weather their quality decreases (Hummer et al., 2012).

The species has been identified as adaptive to the climatic conditions of Mongolia (Liu, 1999), Romania (Mencinicopshi et al., 2013) and others. In Georgia, it is recommended for cultivation in the Shida Kartli region and in other parts of the country with similar soil and climatic conditions (Bobokashvili et al., 2017). Dzhugalov et al. (2015), study the growth and reproductive manifestations of

1640 (Jing et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2012).

(Hummer et al., 2012).

(Liu, 1999), (Mencinicopshi et al., 2013)

(Bobokashvili et al., 2017). Dzhugalov et al. (2015),

(JB 1 JB 2)

5 °

(Vandova et al., 1984).

5 °

42 (Vandova et al., 1984).

(JB 1 JB 2)

2017-2019

(*Lycium barbarum* L.) – JB 1 JB 2

3 m 2 m 2014

70-90 cm.

40 l/

NPK (14:10:12)

300 g/

two *in vitro* propagated Bulgarian goji berry varieties (JB 1 and JB 2) under the conditions of the Plovdiv region and determine them as suitable for cultivation in the region of Plovdiv - Southern Bulgaria.

The permanent maintenance of the average daily air temperature above 5 ° in spring is considered to be the beginning of the active vegetation in fruit plants (Vandova et al., 1984). For the region of Plovdiv in assessing the agro-climatic conditions for growing some fruit crops in Bulgaria it was found that the permanent increase in air temperature above 5 ° is in early March and the difference between the earliest and latest date is 42 days (Vandova et al., 1984).

There is no information in the available literature about the phenological manifestations of goji berry varieties and their relationship with thermal conditions.

The aim of the present study was to obtain information on the time of occurrence of the main phenophases in two *in vitro* propagated goji berry varieties (JB 1 and JB 2) when grown in Southern Bulgaria and to get more clarity about the relationship between the occurrence of phenophases and thermal conditions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the experimental base of the Department of Fruit Growing at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the period 2017-2019. *In vitro* propagated plants of two varieties: goji berry of the species (*Lycium barbarum* L.) – JB 1 and JB 2 are planted at distances 3 m x 2 m in June 2014 and are shaped like trees with a stem height of 70-90 cm. The plants are grown under drip irrigation, and in the hottest months of July and August they are watered with 40 l/tree every two weeks. Fertilization with NPK (14:10:12) was done twice a year with 300 g/tree, first after pruning before the beginning of the growing season and then before flowering.

- The dates of occurrence of the main phenological phases are taken into account – bud burst, mass flowering and fruit ripening. The number of days and temperature sums with air temperature (active temperatures above 0 °) for moving from one main phase to another is calculated. The time in days, as well the active temperature sum for the beginning of the phenophase – bursting of the buds are calculated from the beginning of February. Ripe fruits are those with a rich colour and luster, which are easily separated from the stalk. The temperature data are from Plovdiv region.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data on the dates of occurrence of the main phenophases are presented in Table 1. The analysis of the data shows that the phenophase bursting of the buds, which marks the beginning of the vegetation, in each year of the study began after 15 of March and occurs earlier by about week in variety JB 2. Mass flowering was during last ten days of May and first ten days of June.

The fruits begin to ripen from early July. From the information in Table 1, it is clear that damages as a result of frosts return in the studied goji berry varieties are impossible.

Table 1. Dates of beginning of the main phenophases in the varieties JB 1 and JB 2 during the period 2017-2019

| Variety | Bud burs | | | Mass flowering | | | Maturation | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| JB 1 | 21.03 | 14.03 | 25.03 | 28.05 | 09.06 | 05.06 | 3.07 | 13.07 | 18.07 |
| JB 2 | 10.03 | 09.03 | 19.03 | 25.05 | 02.06 | 5.06 | 03.07 | 03.07 | 01.07 |

- Table 2 presents the results of the calculations of the number of days for which the plants pass from one main phenophase to another, as well the cumulative temperature sum for this

| JB 1 | | | |
|--|--------|---------|---------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Number of days to buds burst | 49 | 45 | 53 |
| Sum of active temperatures to bud burst | 297.2° | 234.9° | 398.0° |
| Number of days to mass flowering | 68 | 82 | 72 |
| Sum of active temperatures to mass flowering | 968.4 | 1411.0° | 1081.4 |
| Number of days from mass flowering to ripening | 36 | 34 | 43 |
| Sum of active temperatures from mass flowering to ripening | 855.3 | 763.1 | 1001.5° |

period. The data show that in variety JB 1 the bursting of the buds in 2017, 2018 and 2019 occurs in a period of 45 to 53 days. For the beginning of the phenophase In the first year, it took 49 days. During the indicated period the accumulated effective temperature by years was 297.2 ° , 234.9° and 398.0° .

From the start of vegetation to the mass flowering passed from 68 to 82 days, and the least time for the occurrence of the phenophase was needed in 2017, then the active temperature sum was 968.4 and the most in 2018 with an active temperature of 1411.0° .

The fruits of variety JB 1 matured fastest in 2018 – for 34 days with an active temperature of 763.1 ° and slowest – for 43 days in 2019 when accumulated 1001.5° .

There is a strong variation by years in the temperature sums. There have been not found clear trends over the years of this study, which could mean that for goji berries the light conditions have a greater influence on the occurrence of the main phenophases, than the temperature. The number of days required for passing from one main phenophase to another seems to be more stable than the accumulated temperature.

2. () JB 1 2017-2019 .
Table 2. Time (number of days) and temperature sum ° for the occurrence of the main phenophases in variety JB 1 during 2017-2019 year

| / Indicator | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|-------|-------|--------|
| Number of days to buds burst | 49 | 45 | 53 |
| Sum of active temperatures to bud burst | 297.2 | 234.9 | 398 |
| Number of days to mass flowering | 68 | 87 | 72 |
| Sum of active temperatures to mass flowering | 968.4 | 1411 | 1081.4 |
| Number of days from mass flowering to ripening, | 36 | 34 | 43 |
| Sum of active temperatures from mass flowering to ripening | 855.3 | 763.1 | 1001.5 |

() The data for the time (number of days) and the sum of the active

JB 2
 3. JB 2
 2017 . 38 ,
 , 47 . 40
 , 140,7° 343,7° . 389,2°
 - 76 2017 . -
 - 85 . -
 2018 .
 78 .
 1035,6° - 1307,7° .
 JB 2
 25 38 2019 . 2017 .
 587,8 ° 830 ° .
 31 689,4 ° .

3. (.) °

temperatures to the occurrence of the main phenophases in variety JB 2 are presented in Table 3.

In 2017, for JB 2 there were needed 38 days from the beginning of February to the bud burst. In the second year of the study, respectively 40 days and 47 days in the last year. During this time, accumulated active temperature was 389.2 °, 140.7 ° and 343.7 °, respectively.

After the bud burst, the mass flowering occurred earliest- for 76 days in 2017 and latest 2018 year, when needed 85 days. For the phenophase to occur it took 78 days in the last year. The active temperature sum for the three years of the study was with variation in the range 1035.6° - 1307.7° .

During the years of the study (2017-2019) from mass flowering to the ripening of the fruits of variety JB 2, it took 38 days, 31 days and 25 days, respectively in 2017, 2018 and 2019 years with accumulated temperature 830 °, 689.4 ° and 587.8 ° .

JB 2 2017-2019 .

Table 3. Time (number of days) and sum of active temperatures ° to occurrence of the main phenophases in variety JB 2 during 2017-2019

| / Indicator | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of days to buds burst | 38 | 40 | 47 |
| Sum of active temperatures to bud burst, | 389.2 | 140.7 | 343.7 |
| Number of days to mass flowering | 76 | 85 | 78 |
| Sum of active temperatures to mass flowering, | 1035.6 | 1307.7 | 1114.2 |
| Time from mass flowering to ripening, number of days | 38 | 31 | 25 |
| Sum of active temperatures from mass flowering to ripening | 830.5 | 689.4 | 587.8 |

JB 2

Flowering, and hence fruit formation, takes place over a long period of time. Impressive is, the second wave of mass flowering in variety JB 2 in August.

After this second mass flowering, many of the flowers form fruits, which are small

in size.

- In the current study, fruit harvests were performed every month and the last was in late October or early November.

- Further studies are needed to determine the periodicity of flowering in goji berries and whether the phenological manifestation is characteristic for each variety. This feature could be used to increase yields through the application of good agronomic practices, such as fertilization and irrigation, to provide nutrition to the fruit after flowering, beehives and, why not, indoor rearing.

- A differentiated approach will be needed when carrying out plant protection measures, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

1. During the study period, earliest bud burst, which marks the beginning of the growing season, occurred in JB 2 on 9 March and on 14 March in JB 1.
2. The bud burst in the JB 2 variety starts about a week earlier than in the JB 1 variety.
3. Mass flowering of the varieties JB 1 and JB 2 occurs at the end of May and damages from frosts returns in goji berry are not possible.
4. In JB 1 and JB 2 varieties It tooks from 30 to 40 days from mass flowering to fruit ripening.
5. The number of days required to pass from one main phenophase to another is a more reliable indicator than the accumulated temperature sum for the respective period.

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(*Lycium barbarum* L.)

, 4000 ,

Growth and Reproductive Manifestations of Some Varieties of the Goji Berry Plant (*Lycium barbarum* L.) Formed As a Tree

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Original scientific paper

2014 .
4
JB 4 JB10
290 m
3 m/2 m
JB1, JB2,
Lycium barbarum L.

(Bio Tree)

3 m/2m,

SUMMARY

The experience is held on the experimental field of the Department of Fruit Growing at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv in the village of Brestnik. The area is 290 m above the sea level. The plantation was established in 2014. At distances 3 m/2 m, were planted 4 varieties of goji berry JB1, JB2, JB 4 and JB10 of the species *Lycium barbarum* L. The plants are formed as trees on a supporting structure and are grown under drip irrigation.

The aim of the study was to determine the width of the trees in connection with the optimal planting densities when creating plantations and to obtain information on the productive potential of several *in vitro* propagated (Bio Tree) varieties of goji berry.

The results of the study showed that at the end of the seventh vegetation the growth of the trees has not yet weakened. With the 3 m/2m planting scheme, the plants have not occupied their allotted area and denser planting probably is possible. The size of the trees

JB 1

JB 2.

(*Lycium barbarum* L.)

(Zhang Haizhou, 2001;
Chen Fang and Liu Fue, 2008).

(Lee Yoon et al.).

1.7 m

1.8-2 m.

20

by this time is successfully controlled with the winter and summer pruning. The most productive of the studied goji berry varieties was JB 1 variety, followed by JB 2. Further studies on the effect of pruning on fruiting in the varieties are needed, to determine the optimal planting distances for them.

Key words: goji berry, yield, planting distances, growth

INTRODUCTION

Goji berry (*Lycium barbarum* L.) is a species studied relatively recently. The fruits are formed on the current growth during the vegetation for a long period of time. The shoots are long. Due to the drooping habit of the plant when grown as a shrub, most of the fruits are contaminated and damaged, and their collection is quite time consuming. An opportunity to avoid the disadvantages associated with the cultivation of goji berry is the formation of the plant as a tree. For this purpose because the plant does not form a thick stem and is quite unstable, a supporting structure is needed. There is little information related to pruning practices and planting distances (Zhang Haizhou, 2001; Chen Fang and Liu Fue, 2008). In China has been established a standard for growing goji berries (Lee Yoon et al.). Several crowns have been described in the cultivation of the plant as a tree:

- Naturally semicircular with 5 to 8 main branches: 3 to 5 on the first floor and 2 to 3 branches on the second floor. The crown after formation is 1.7 m high and 1.8-2 m in diameter.

- Semicircular with 5 to 8 main branches, which are evenly distributed on the central lider branch. The tree is about 1.7 m high and 2 m in diameter.

- Conical: The tree has 16 to 20 branches with a clear central leader and a main first floor. After formation, the diameter of the crown is about one meter

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | 1.7 m. | and the height about 1.7 m. |
| - | (| - Umbrella-shaped (with one or more floors of branches, with 4 to 5 branches per floor.). After 4 to 5 years, the tree is expected to be about 1.6 m high, with crown diameter 1.0 m and thickness of the stem 5-6 cm. |
|). | 4 5 | |
| | 1.6 m, | |
| | 1.0 m, | |
| 5-6 cm. | (Penn State College), | In Canada (Penn State College), offer the formation of a conical crown. A well-shaped tree with a conical crown should have 16 to 20 semi-skeletal branches and be about 1.80 m high and 1.0-1.2 m in diameter. The other offered crown for goji berry is with a few floors of branches. Crown (with three floors), after the formation should have from 10 to 15 main branches, height from about to 2.2 m and crown width 1.5-1.8 m. |
| | 16 20 | |
| 1.80 m | 1.0-1.2 m. | |
| (|), | |
| 10 15 | , | |
| 2.2 m | | |
| 1.5-1.8 m. | | |
| Ningqi 1 | | For Ningqi 1 variety for home gardens, the recommended planting distance is 1.5 m/2 m, and for industrial plants: 1.0 m/3.0 m. In Ningxia, six-year-old Ningqi 2 plants are expected to be 1.59 m tall, to have a stem diameter of 6 cm and a crown with 1.9 m in diameter. In Canada, planting schemes of 1 m to 1.50 m in a row and at least 2 m to 3 m between rows are recommended for growing goji berries. It is reported that the maximum yield will occur four to five years after the first fruiting. In China, 1.5 m × 2 m is defined as a suitable planting scheme for the Ningqi 5 variety in small households, and 1.0 m/3.0 m for larger areas. |
| 1.5 m/2 m, | Ningxia | |
| : 1.0 m/3.0 m. | | |
| Ningqi 2 | 1.59 m, | |
| | 6 cm | |
| 1.9 m. | | |
| | 1 m 1.50 m | |
| 2 m 3 m | | |
| | | |
| Ningqi 5 | | |
| | 1.5 m × 2 m, | |
| - | 1.0 m/3.0 m. | |
| Dzhugalov et al. (2015), | | Dzhugalov et al. (2015), in a study of growth and reproductive characteristics of two varieties of goji berry (JB 1 and JB 2) registered better productivity of variety JB 1 - 0.56 kg/tree with theoretical yield – 93.52 kg/da. In the other variety, the yields were, respectively 0.31 kg/tree and 51.77 kg/da, respectively. The authors also found differences in terms of variety growth. Differences in growth and productivity have also been identified by (Lichev et al., 2020). |
| (JB 1 JB 2) | | |
| | JB 1 – 0.56 kg/ | |
| | – 93.52 kg, | |
| | 0.31 kg/ | |
| 51.77 kg/da. | | |
| | | |
| (Lichev et al., 2020). | | Very often genetic characteristics |

barbarum L.)

(JB 1, JB 2, JB 4, JB 10)

(*Lycium*

- determinate different growth and reproductive characteristics. They must be taken into account when creating plantations. Scientifically based information related to the testing of the varieties in this study for different planting densities is missing in the available literature.

- The aim of the study was to investigate the growth characteristics of several varieties goji berry (JB 1, JB 2, JB 4, JB 10) of the species (*Lycium barbarum* L.) in order to obtain more clarity about the potential sizes for the plants goji berry grown as trees, as well as their yield potential.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was performed with *in vitro* propagated plants of four varieties in the period 2017-2020. The experimental plants were planted in June 2014. They are formed as trees with a stem height of 70-90 cm and are on a supporting construction and are grown under drip irrigation. Additional water with 40 l/tree per week was given during the months of July and August.

With the winter pruning (before the beginning of the vegetation), the branches growing inwards and downwards are removed. During the vegetation the current vegetative growth is shortened when reaching a length of 30 cm. Each tree is fertilized with 300 g NPK (14:10:12), first after the winter pruning and then in May before flowering. The climate in Plovdiv is typical for the temperate climate zone with 3900° active temperature sum and with precipitation in the amount of about 515 mm.

There are taken into account the diameter of the stem (mm), the width of the tree crowns (cm) and the yield of fresh fruit (kg/tree). The theoretical yield (kg/da) was calculated for two planting densities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis of the data for the diameter of the stem (Table 1) show that in the variety JB 1 the stem thickens is adding relatively evenly by

14.09 mm 2017 2020 . 3 mm. 21.89 mm .

18.88 mm 31.17 mm, 4 mm

2017-2020 . JB 4

10.39 mm 15.65 mm 2 mm

2020 . 12.55 mm 19.45 JB 10.

2017-2020 . , ,

about 3 mm. per year. From 14.09 mm in 2017 to 21.89 mm at the end of 2020. Of the studied varieties, the thickest stem forms the variety JB 2. The values of this indices increase from 18.88 mm to 31.17 mm, which is thickening of about 4 mm per year. The thickness of the stem during the period 2017-2020 in JB 4 varies from 10.39 mm to 15.65 mm or by approximately 2 mm per year. A similar thickening of the stem was observed in JB 10. In this variety the values of the indicator vary from 12.55 mm at the beginning of the period to 19.45 mm at the end.

The relatively evenly thickening of the stems of the studied varieties in the period 2017-2020, shows that the growth of the trees at the end of the seventh vegetation has not yet weakened.

1. 2017-2020 ., mm

Table 1. Diameter of the stem 2017-2020, mm

| /Variety | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| JB 1 | 14.09 | 17.24 | 18.47 | 21.89 |
| JB 2 | 18.88 | 22.34 | 27.49 | 31.17 |
| JB 4 | 10.39 | 12.47 | 13.95 | 15.65 |
| JB 10 | 12.15 | 13.66 | 16.38 | 19.45 |

The differences are significant P< 0.05%

2. 2017-2020 . 73.00-144.00 cm. JB 1 JB 2 JB 4 (1-4). 3m/2m

The data from the analysis of the diameter of the crowns are presented in Table 2. The diameter of the crowns in the studied varieties in the period 2017-2020 is in the range 73.00-144.00 cm. Varieties JB 1 and JB 2 form wider crowns than varieties JB 4 and JB 10, which is probably due to their more upright growth (Figures 1-4). At the end of the seventh vegetation, at the selected planting distances of 3m/2m, for the trees have not yet completely occupied their defined area. Through the winter and summer pruning, the width of the crowns can be maintained in the desired dimensions.

2. 2017-2020 , cm
Table 2. Diameter of the crown 2017-2020, cm

| / Variety | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JB 1 | 108.80 | 91.00 | 134.00 | 120.00 |
| JB 2 | 134.25 | 111.25 | 144.00 | 136.25 |
| JB 4 | 77.00 | 73.00 | 118.00 | 81.75 |
| JB 10 | 82.50 | 95.00 | 132.00 | 116.25 |

The differences are significant $P < 0.05\%$



. 1. JB 1
Fig. 1. Tree of JB 1 variety



. 2. JB 2
Fig. 2. Tree of JB 2 variety



. 3. JB 4
Fig. 3. Tree of JB 4 variety



. 4. JB 10
Fig. 4. Tree of JB 10 variety

| Cultivar | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Mean | Summary |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| JB 1 | 0.96 | 0.66 | 1.71 | 1.65 | 1.24 | 4.98 |
| JB 2 | 0.34 | 0.62 | 0.71 | 0.87 | 0.63 | 2.54 |
| JB 4 | 0.34 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.83 |
| JB 10 | 0.22 | 0.18 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.71 |

The results of the analysis for the yield are presented in Table 3. The data show variety JB 1 as the most productive in each year of the study and on average for the period 2017-2020. The cumulative yield per tree of this variety for the years 2017-2020 is 4.98 kg. The variety JB 2 follows the most productive JB 1, in terms of average yield of 0.63 kg and in terms of total yield for the commented period – 2.54 kg. The least fruits in total for the period 2017-2020 were obtained from the varieties JB 4 and JB 10, respectively 0.83 kg and 0.71 kg. Given that these two varieties have more collected crowns, denser planting could to some extent compensate the low yield. Further studies on the effect of pruning on fruiting are needed, because the yields obtained in this study, are much lower than those indicated by the producers of the varieties.

At the end of the seventh vegetation and in total for the period 2017-2020, the most productive variety was JB 1 and after it JB 2. The lowest yields were obtained from the varieties JB 4 and JB 10.

3. Yield of fresh fruit, kg/tree for the period 2017-2020

| /Cultivar | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Mean | summary |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| JB 1 | 0.96 | 0.66 | 1.71 | 1.65 | 1.24 | 4.98 |
| JB 2 | 0.34 | 0.62 | 0.71 | 0.87 | 0.63 | 2.54 |
| JB 4 | 0.34 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.83 |
| JB 10 | 0.22 | 0.18 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.71 |

The differences are significant P < 0.05%

| Cultivar | 3m/2m | 2m/2m |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| JB 1 | 77.50 kg/da | 60 kg/da |

Table 4 presents calculations of the theoretical yield (kg/da) for two planting densities. When dried, fresh fruits lose about four times their weight, which would mean that from the most productive variety JB 1 at planting distances in the present study 3 m/2 m would give about 60 kg/da dried fruit, and at a density of 2 m/2 m, respectively 77.50 kg/da. To obtain higher yields (kg/da) is necessary, testing of the plants of these varieties with denser planting

(kg/da)

and also other agricultural practices, which can lead to increase the productivity.

4. () , kg/da

Table 4. Theoretical yield (mean) by two planting densities, kg/da

| /Cultivar | Planting densities 3 m/2 m | Planting densities 2 m/2 m |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| JB 1 | 248.00 | 310.00 |
| JB 2 | 126.00 | 157.50 |
| JB 4 | 42.00 | 52.50 |
| JB 10 | 36.00 | 45.00 |

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The relatively evenly thickening of the stems of the studied varieties in the period 2017-2020, shows that the growth of the trees at the end of the seventh vegetation has not yet weakened
- ✓ At the end of the seventh vegetation, at the selected planting distances of 3 m/2 m, the trees have not yet completely occupied their defined area in the row.
- ✓ Through winter and summer pruning the width of the crowns can be maintained in the desired dimensions.
- ✓ At the end of the seventh vegetation and in total for the period 2017-2020, the most productive variety was JB 1, followed by JB 2. The lowest yields were obtained from the varieties JB 4 and JB 10.
- ✓ For higher yields (kg/da), testing of denser planting schemes is required and also a study on the effect of pruning on fruiting.

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Willamette

1*, 2, 2
1, 6015, 5600
2

Correlation Dependences between Vegetative and Reproductive Characteristics of 'Willamette' Cultivar

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

Willamette.
- 0.50 m 0.30 m
3.00 m.
2018-2020 . , .
;
(g),
1 m².
Willamette
(33.83 .)
(2.23 m)

- The study observed the vegetative and reproductive characteristics of raspberry cultivar Willamette. The field experiment was set on two planting variants at the intra-row area – 0.50 m and 0.30 m and at inter-row spacing of 3.00 m. The scientific experiment was conducted in a collection plantation of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan in the period of 2018-2020. The vegetative indicators, such as average number of shoots, average height and average thickness of shoots of one linear meter of intra-row area were analysed and also some reproductive indicators, such as average fruit weight (g), and average yield per 1 m². In the first experimental year in 'Willamette' cultivar, the largest average number of shoots (33.83) was found from the shorter planting distance and the highest average plant height (2.23 m) of the same variant.

The average thickness of the shoots in

5.31 mm/1m² 7.37
mm/1m².

Willamette

1767.5
g/1m² 2018 ., 1648.17 g/1m² 2019
. 2652.83 g/1m² 2020 .

2.74 g

2018 .

:

the tested cultivar is in the range from 5.31 mm/1m² to 7.37 mm/1m². In terms of reproductive performance, 'Willamette' cultivar was characterized by significantly higher yields at a shorter planting distance and in all three experimental years with 1767.5 g/1m² in 2018, 1648.17 g/1m² in 2019 and 2652.83 g/1m² in 2020. The highest average fruit weight was 2.74 g in the first planting variant in 2018.

Key words: raspberries, planting distance, vegetative indicators, fruit weight, yield

INTRODUCTION

Raspberry is a fruit species of great economic importance due to its high productivity and economic efficiency. According to data from the world and our literature, the foot-hill and mountainous regions are suitable for raspberries, as they largely meet the soil and climatic requirements of this fruit species.

Their climate is cool and the soil and atmospheric humidity are higher. Today there is a growing interest in raspberry, which is due to the good conditions of the international and domestic market, the rapid return on investment and continuous improvement of technologies for growing and processing of fruits (Hristov and Boycheva, 1982; Rangelov, 1990; Pritts, 1991).; Stiles et al., 2002; Knight, 2004; Bushway, 2008; Fernandez and Krewer, 2008; Veljkovic et al., 2008; Petrovi and Leposavi , 2011).

The productivity of raspberries is determined both by the number of shoots per linear meter and their development (height and thickness) and by the number and weight of fruits per one shoot. The yield and quality of fruits are directly dependent on the latitude, agrometeorological conditions of the growing area, cultivar characteristics and applied agricultural techniques (Georgiev, 2006;

(Hristov and Boycheva, 1982; Rangelov, 1990; Pritts, 1991; Stiles et al., 2002; Knight, 2004; Bushway, 2008; Fernandez and Krewer, 2008; Veljkovic et al., 2008; Petrovi and Leposavi , 2011).

(),

(Georgiev, 2006; Leposavi et al., 2013; Pešakovi et al., 2013; Zorenc et al., 2017).

(Hristov, 1991; Stanisavljevic et al., 2004; Boycheva, 1999; Buskiene, 1999; Koron, 2004).

Eyduran et al. (2008) - 10
 (): , ,
 I, II,
 Willamette. -
 (2.77 g), Willamette (2.32 g),
 (2.04 g).
 -
 Willamette (95.76 g),
 (70.60 g), -
 II (65.74 g).

2010-2011 .
 , Be irspahi et al.(2014), -
 - Willamette,
 .
 -
 (212.65 m), Willamette -
 (141.16 cm). -

Attila et al. (2006),
 -
 .
 Willamette
 196.90 cm, 186 cm, -
 -
 139.90 cm.
 2020 . Cvetkovic et al. -

Willamette
 .
 13.6 18.2 .,
 4.0 4.4 g
 702.6 1243.4 g/1m²

Leposavi et al., 2013; Pešakovi et al., 2013; Zorenc et al., 2017).

A number of researchers have focused their research on testing the fertility of raspberry cultivars (Hristov, 1991; Stanisavljevic et al., 2004; Boycheva, 1999; Buskiene, 1999; Koron, 2004).

Eyduran et al. (2008) studied the vegetative characteristics of 10 raspberry cultivars in the region of Central Anatolia (Turkey): 'Red Axu', Kenby, 'Heritage I', 'Heritage II', 'Dutch Dwarf', 'Newburg', 'Ruby', Peak, Tulameen and Willamette. The largest fruit weight was found in 'Willamette' (2.77 g), followed by 'Tulameen' (2.32 g), 'Canby' (2.04 g). The results show that the highest yield per shoot was obtained from 'Willamette' (95.76 g), followed by 'Tulameen' (70.60 g), 'Heritage' II (65.74 g).

In the period 2010-2011 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Be irspahi et al. (2014) compared the vegetative growth of three raspberry cultivars: 'Willamette', 'Meeker' and 'Tulameen'. The authors report that 'Meeker' had the highest shoot height (212.65 cm) and 'Willamette' had the lowest height (141.16 cm).

These results can be compared with the studies of Attila et al. (2006), who observed the height of shoots of these raspberry cultivars in the conditions of Ankara – Turkey. According to their experiment the highest average shoot height was found in 'Willamette' 196.90 cm, followed by 'Meeker' 186 cm, while the lowest shoot height was found in 'Tulameen' with 139.90 cm.

In 2020, Cvetkovic et al. studied the reproductive potential of 'Willamette' in the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They reported a number of fruiting shoots per linear meter in the range of 13.6 to 18.2, an average fruit weight of 4.0 to 4.4 g and an average yield per one linear meter 702.6 to 1243.4 g/1m².

Willamette
m 0.30 m

-
0.50

The objective of the present study is to determine whether there are correlation dependences between some vegetative and reproductive characteristics of the studied cultivar 'Willamette' in the different variants of planting at 0.50 m and 0.30 m in intra-row area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2018-2020

The scientific experiment was conducted in the period 2018-2020, in a collection plantation of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan. The objective of the study is 'Willamette', which is a widely distributed raspberry cultivar. The cultivar is introduced, with good characteristics and suitability for cultivation in the foothills. The plants are grown under irrigated conditions with drip irrigation. The cultivation technique includes naturally grassed row-spacing and maintenance of black fallow in the intra-row spacings.

Willamette.

The following vegetative and reproductive indicators are reported:

- ;
(cm);
(mm), 10 cm
- ;
- (g);
- 1 m² (g).

- average number of shoots per linear meter;
- average height of shoots (cm);
- average thickness of shoots (mm), measured at 10 cm from the soil surface;
- average fruit weight (g);
- average yield per 1 m² (g).

a
- I . -
0.50 m ;
- II . -
0.30 m
3.00 m.

The experiment was set in two variants with six repetitions, each one linear meter of the intra-row area for the variety and variants.

- I var. – planting of the plants at 0.50 m in the row area;
- II var. – planting of the plants at 0.30 m in the row area.

In both variants the row spacing is 3.00 m.

(Nedev et al., 1979).

The methodology for studying plant resources in fruit plants was used to report the indicators (Nedev et al., 1979). The data were processed by correlation analysis (Lidanski, 1988), the software

(Lidanski, 1988),
MS Excel – 2010.

- product MS Excel – 2010 was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Shoot-forming ability is an important factor characterizing the potential of the cultivar, as well as largely determining the cultivation technology.

- The results from the first experimental year showed a big difference between the variants of the cultivar in the range of 21.67 pcs. (0.50 m) to 33.83 pcs. (0.30 m) (Table 1). It can be noted that a higher average height of shoots was found in the variant with a shorter planting distance (2.23 cm).

21.67 . (0.50 m) 33.83 . (0.30 m)
(1).

(2.23 m).

1.

2018-2020 .

Willamette

Table 1. Vegetative and reproductive indicators by variants of 'Willamette' cultivar for the period 2018-2020

| / Indicators | | / Cultivar | Willamette 0.50 m | Willamette 0.30 m |
|---|--|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2018 | | | | |
| 1/m ² / Average number of shoots per 1m ² | | | 21.67 | 33.83 |
| per 1/m ² | (cm) 1/m ² / Average shoots height (cm) | | 1.59 | 2.23 |
| per 1/m ² | (mm) 1/m ² / Average shoots thickness | | 6.63 | 6.88 |
| | (g) / Average fruit weight (g) | | 2.60 | 2.74 |
| | (g) 1/m ² / Average yield per 1m ² (g) | | 896.50 | 1767.5 |
| 2019 | | | | |
| 1/m / Average number of shoots per 1m ² | | | 17.17 | 32.00 |
| per 1/m ² | (cm) 1/m ² / Average shoots height (cm) | | 1.41 | 1.34 |
| per 1/m ² | (mm) 1/m ² / Average shoots thickness | | 7.37 | 6.40 |
| | (g) / Average fruit weight (g) | | 2.08 | 2.42 |
| | (g) 1/m ² / Average yield per 1m ² (g) | | 1138 | 1648.17 |
| 2020 | | | | |
| 1/m ² / Average number of shoots per 1m ² | | | 14.33 | 27.33 |
| per 1/m ² | (cm) 1/m ² / Average height of shoots (cm) | | 1.12 | 1.25 |
| per 1/m ² | (mm) 1/m ² / Average shoots thickness | | 5.31 | 5.78 |
| | (g) / Average fruit weight (g) | | 2.33 | 2.53 |
| | (g) 1/m ² / Average yield per 1m ² (g) | | 1511.67 | 2652.83 |

2.

Willamette,

0.50 m

2018 .

Table 2. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette' at 0.50 m planting distance in 2018

| / Indicators | 1/m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | (cm) Average height of shoots (cm); | (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 1/m ² (g) Average yield (g) per 1/m ² |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm) | -0.23978889 | 1 | | |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | -0.334734029 | 0.855371098 | 1 | |
| Average yield (g) per 1/m ² | 0.204928376 | -0.233184511 | -0.599952753 | 1 |

3.

Willamette,

0.30 m

2018 .

Table 3. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette' at 0.30 m planting distance in 2018

| / Indicators | 1/m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | (cm) Average height of shoots (cm) | (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 1/m ² (g) Average yield (g) per 1/m ² |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm); | -0.136590509 | 1 | | |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | -0.72547565 | 0.702988271 | 1 | |
| Average yield (g) per 1/m ² | -0.68200178 | 0.561068125 | 0.709395737 | 1 |

-
- The values of the average thickness of shoots in both variants were minimal. Regarding the reproductive indicators, the average fruit weight in both agricultural techniques did not show significant differences. In the first experimental year, the yield obtained in the second variant of the tested cultivar was approximately twice higher (1767.5 g) than the first one.

-
1767.5 g.

In the first experimental year in both variants of planting, a strong positive correlation was observed between the

$r=0,70$) (2 3). : ($r=0,86$

($r= -0,73$).

($r=0,71$).

($r= -0,68$).

- height and thickness of the shoots, respectively: ($r=0.86$ and $r=0.70$) (Tables 2 and 3). Other correlations in the other indicators are observed only in the second variant, as a strong negative correlation is observed between the number and thickness of shoots ($r= -0.73$).

- A correlation-positive relationship was observed in yield versus shoot thickness ($r= 0.71$). There is a significant but negative dependence between the number of shoots and their yield ($r= -0.68$).

- It is noteworthy that at a greater distance of planting plants, we consider only one dependence between the height and thickness of the shoots.

4.

Willamette,

0.50 m

2019 .

Table 4. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.50 m planting distance in 2019

| / Indicators | 1/m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | (cm) Average height of shoots (cm) | (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness 1/m ² | 1/m ² (g) Average yield (g) per 1m ² |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1/m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm); | -0.331430951 | 1 | | |
| (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | -0.427432902 | 0.83192398 | 1 | |
| (g) 1/m ² Average yield (g) per 1m ² | 0.831612085 | -0.368311432 | -0.29767 | 1 |

T 1 , a,

(17.17).

1.34 m 0.30 m 1.41 m 0.50 m.

7.37 mm.

- Table 1 presents that in the second experimental year, the average number of shoots in the second variant of planting was close to the previous year. In the first variant, a smaller number of shoots was reported than in the same variant in the previous year (17.17). The average height of shoots was in the range from 1.34 cm at 0.30 m to 1.41 cm at 0.50 m.

- The average thickness of shoots at the greater planting distance was greater (7.37 mm). The average weight of fruit

2.08 g (0.50 m) 2.42 g (0.30 m).
 2019 . (1138 g)
 - (1648.17 g).
 Willamette
 0.50 m
 (r=0.83; r=0.83) (4).
 5 , ,
 (r=0.81).
 (r<0,5).

was lower in the second year and ranged from 2.08 g (0.50 m) to 2.42 g (0.30 m).

In 2019, a significantly higher average yield (1138 g) was reported in the first variant than in the same variant of the previous year, and in the other variant it was significantly higher (1648.17 g).

The statistical correlation among the indicators of 'Willamette' in the second experimental year at a planting distance at 0.50 m showed a very strong positive relationship between the height and thickness of shoots, and also between the number of shoots and yield, as the correlation coefficient was equal (r=0.83; r=0.83) (Table 4).

- The strength of the dependence on the other indicators is negative, weak or moderate. Table 5 shows that at the shorter planting distance there was a high correlation only between the yield and shoot thickness (r=0.81).
- In all other indicators, a weak to moderate correlation was observed (r<0.5).

5.

Willamette,

0.30 m

2019 .

Table 5. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.30 m planting distance in 2019

| / Indicators | Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | Average height of shoots (cm) | Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | Average yield (g) per 1m ² (g) |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm) | 0.075025178 | 1 | | |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 0.351065764 | 0.303175131 | 1 | |
| Average yield (g) per 1m ² | -0.250734605 | 0.213412493 | 0.809717425 | 1 |

In the third experimental year, the number of shoots in the first variant

(1).

14.33

1.25 m 0.30 m 1.12 m 0.50 m

2652.83 g,

decreased significantly (14.33) (Table 1).

This is the lowest result of this indicator in the three-year period. The lowest values in the third year were reported at the average height of shoots, which was in the range from 1.12 cm at 0.50 m to 1.25 cm at 0.30 m. The differences in values of the average thickness of shoots in both variants were minimal. There weren't any significant differences in the average thickness of shoots, although there was a minimal predominance in the second variant.

In the third experimental year, a significantly higher average yield was reported in the second variant of the tested cultivar 2652.83 g, which turned out to be the highest yield during the reported three-year period.

6.

Willamette,

0.50 m

2020 .

Table 6. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.50 m planting distance in 2020

| / Indicators | Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | Average height of shoots (cm); (cm) | Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² (mm) 1/m ² | Average yield (g) per 1/m ² (g) 1/m ² |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm); | -0.34931 | 1 | | |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) 1/m ² (mm) 1/m ² | -0.4644 | 0.904103 | 1 | |
| Average yield (g) per 1m ² (g) 1/m ² | 0.210386 | 0.680262 | 0.418518 | 1 |

(0.50 m)

(6).

(r=0.90),

In the first variant (0.50 m) a very strong correlation was reported again only between the thickness and the height of the shoots (Table 6). The correlation coefficient has a very high value (r= 0.90), which means that there is a very large ascending dependence between both

indicators. Significant correlation dependences were observed between shoot height in relation to yield ($r=0.68$).
 T 7, (r=0.68).
 0.30 m
 (r=0.58),
 (r=0.51).

indicators. Significant correlation dependences were observed between shoot height in relation to yield ($r=0.68$).

Table 7 shows that at a planting distance of 0.30 m, a moderate correlation was found between the thickness of the shoots and their height ($r=0.58$), as well as between their thickness and yield ($r=0.51$).

7.

Willamette,

0.30 m

2020 .

Table 7. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.30 m planting distance in 2020.

| Indicators | Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | Average height of shoots (cm); | Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | Average yield (g) per 1/m ² |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm) | 0.143988 | 1 | | |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 0.343317 | 0.579916 | 1 | |
| Average yield (g) per 1/m ² | -0.13466 | -0.3249 | 0.508216 | 1 |

(31.05),

8).

(45.7%)
 (45.8%),
 (0.3%).
 (P<0.05).

(1.61 cm)
 (2022.83 g)

(

The average values for the three-year period take into account the higher values of the average number of shoots (31.05), their average height (1.61 cm) and the higher average yield (2022.83 g) than the variant with the shorter planting distance (Table 8). The analysis of variance shows that the factors of planting variants (45.7%) and random factors (45.8%) had the greatest impact on the average number of shoots, while the interaction between the years and both variants had the least impact (0.3%).

Statistically, differences were demonstrated (P<0.05).

8.

Willamette 2018-2020 .

Table 8. Average values of vegetative and reproductive indicators by variants in 'Willamette' over the period 2018-2020

| Cultivar | Willamette 0.50 m | Willamette 0.30 m | Level of significance (P) (%)/Degree of influence of factors (%) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Indicators | 17.73 | 31.05 | (P <0.05) |
| | | | A 8.2 |
| | | | B 45.7 |
| | | | C 0.3 |
| | | | D 45.8 |
| Average number of shoots 1/m ² | 1.37 | 1.61 | (P <0.05) |
| | | | A 52.6 |
| | | | B 1.6 |
| | | | C 3.1 |
| | | | D 42.7 |
| Average height (cm) of shoots per 1/m ² | 6.44 | 6.35 | (P <0.05) |
| | | | A 51.4 |
| | | | B 0.2 |
| | | | C 14.3 |
| | | | D 34.1 |
| Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 1182.06 | 2022.83 | (P 0.001) |
| | | | A 29.6 |
| | | | B 45.2 |
| | | | C 4.3 |
| | | | D 20.9 |

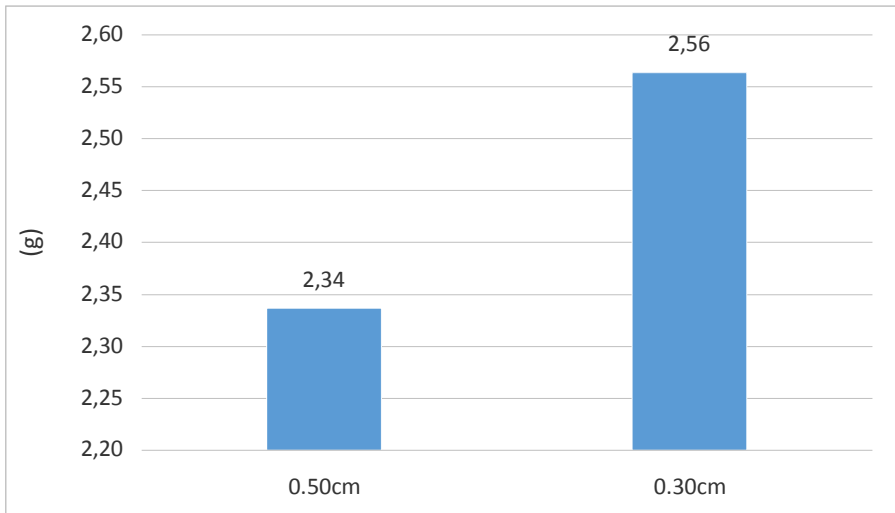
/ Legend:

- A – / degree of impact of years (%);
 B – / degree of impact of the variants (%);
 C – / degree of interaction (%);
 D – / Degree of impact of random factors (%)

Regarding the average height of the shoots, the years during the test period (52.6%) and the random factors (42.7%) had an impact, while the planting agrotechnics had the lowest percentage (1.6%). Mathematically, the differences were proved at the level of significance (P<0.05). The same factors had an impact also on the average thickness of shoots with statistically different values (P<0.05). Very good provability (P<0.001) was observed in the average yield with a significant impact of variants (45.2%), age (29.6%) and random factors (20.9%).

(1).
 - 2.34 g
 (11.13 %).
 2.56 g.

During the three years, the average fruit weight was higher than the variant with the shorter planting distance (Figure 1). On average for the three-year period, the first variant had a value of 2.34 g and the second 2.56 g. The coefficient of variation of the indicator was low (11.13%).



1. Willamette 2018-2020
 Fig. 1. Average values of the average fruit weight (g) by variants for 'Willamette' over the period 2018-2020

9. Willamette, 0.50 m
 2018-2020

Table 9. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.50 m planting distance over the period 2018-2020

| | 1 m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | (cm) Average height of shoots (cm); | (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness 1/m ² | 1/m ² (g) Average yield (g) per 1m ² |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm) | 0.964883 | 1 | | |
| (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness 1/m ² | 0.525933 | 0.73088 | 1 | |
| (g) 1/m ² Average yield (g) per 1m ² | -0.96794 | -0.99993 | -0.7227 | 1 |

10.

Willamette,

0.30 m

2018-2020 .

Table 10. Correlation dependences between vegetative and reproductive indicators of 'Willamette', at 0.30 m planting distance over the period 2018-2020

| / Indicators | 1/m ² Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | (cm) Average height of shoots (cm); | (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness (mm) per 1/m ² | 1/m ² (g) Average yield (g) per 1m ² |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Average number of shoots per 1/m ² | 1 | | | |
| Average height of shoots (cm) | 0.834338 | 1 | | |
| (mm) 1/m ² Average shoots thickness 1/m ² | 0.984384 | 0.918348 | 1 | |
| (g) 1/m ² Average yield (g) per 1m ² | -0.92643 | -0.56543 | -0.84569 | 1 |

9 10

Willamette

(r=0.96)

: (r= -0.97 r= - 0.99).

(r=0.98)

(r=0.92).

(r= -0.93).

Willamette

(

)

Tables 9 and 10 present the correlations between the mean values of vegetative and reproductive indicators by variants for the three years of experience.

During the studied period, there was a very strong positive correlation in 'Willamette' cultivar in the first planting variant between the height of shoots and their number on the one hand (r=0.96) and a very strong but negative dependence between the yield with number of shoots and their height on the other hand, respectively: (r= -0.97 r= - 0.99). In the second variant of planting, there was a very strong correlation between the number and thickness of the shoots (r= 0.98) and between the thickness and their height (r=0.92). Very strong but negative dependence was observed in the yield and number of shoots (r= - 0.93).

Over the studied three-year period, in both variants of planting, it became clear that the correlation coefficient (strength of dependence) varied from significant to very strong in 'Willamette' cultivar.

CONCLUSIONS

From the results for the correlation dependences of the vegetative and reproductive characteristics of plants during the three experimental years, it can be concluded that at a planting distance at 0.50 m a strong positive correlation was reported only between the average thickness and height of the shoots. There was a high positive dependence between vegetative and reproductive indicators, such as average number of shoots and yield only in 2019.

In the planting distance at 0.30 m, a significant correlation was found between the average thickness and the height of the shoots in 2018.

A significant to strong positive correlation was registered between the yield and the average thickness of the shoots in 2018 and 2019 and a significant negative correlation between the thickness and the number of shoots in the first experimental year.

The average results for the three-year period show a very strong positive correlation, in the variant with larger planting distance, between the height of the shoots and their number ($r=0.96$) and a very strong but negative dependence between the yield and the number of shoots and their height, ($r= -0.97$ $r= -0.99$).

In the variant with smaller planting distance, there was a very strong correlation between the number and thickness of the shoots ($r=0.98$) and between the thickness and their height ($r=0.92$). Very strong but negative dependence was observed in the indicators yield and number of shoots ($r= -0.93$).

The average values from the three-year period show that in the variant of planting distance at 0.30 m, the average number of shoots (31.05), their average height (1.61 cm) and the average yield (2022.83 g) had higher values.

0.50 m

2019 .

0.30 m

2018 .

2018 2019 .

($r=0.96$)

$r= -0.99$).

($r=0.98$)

($r=0.92$).

($r= -0.93$).

0.30 m

(31.05),

(1.61 cm)

(2022.83 g).

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1* , 2 , 2 ,
3 , 1 ,
1 , 4000 ,
2 , 5600 ,
3 , 6015 ,

Sensory Characteristics of Raspberry Cultivars

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

A study of cultivars, candidate cultivars of raspberries and a hybrid between a blackberry and raspberry called tayberry 'Medana'. They are provided and grown by RIMSA-Troyan for sensory evaluation in IFPQ-Plovdiv. The objective was to qualify and select cultivars for fresh consumption, for processing in the form of semi-manufactured and frozen products.

Based on a generalized sensory evaluation and evaluations of color, appearance, texture, taste and aroma, the tasters preferred the cultivars 'Tulameen' and 'Medana' for fresh consumption, 'Meeker', 'Samodiva', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena for processing, and 'Autumn bliss' for freezing.

Key words: raspberries, cultivars, fruit quality, physicochemical parameters, sensory characteristics, fruit storage

Medana, Tulameen
Meeker,
utumn bliss.

11-
 ,
 2499 ha,
 2102 ha,
 7450 t
 3455 kg/ha (Agrostat, 2018).
 :
 0.6%, - 23.7%,
 - 67.0%
 - 8.7% (Agrostat, 2018).
 :
 - 1463 ha
 5408 t,
 528 ha 576 t,
 - 317 ha
 982 t, - 751 ha
 2891 t
 221 ha , 959 t,
 - 340 ha 1011 t
 299 ha 1031 t
 (Agrostat, 2018).

(Popov and Hristov, 1972; Hristov, 1980; 1983; Hristov and Boycheva, 1987; Hristov, 1991; Boycheva, 1999 ; 1999b; 1999c; 2001; Serbezova, 2020).

(Jennings, 1979; Daubeny, 2002; Miši and Nikolic, 2003; Lepasovic et al., 2006).

INTRODUCTION

Raspberries are on the 11th place out of all grown fruits in Bulgaria, as the occupied areas are 2499 ha, of which the harvest areas are 2102 ha, with annual production of 7450 t and average yield of 3455 kg/ha (Agrostat, 2018).

The annual production of fruits is realized in the following areas: for own consumption – 0.6%, for the trade network – 23.7%, for processing – 67.0% and for other areas – 8.7% (Agrostat, 2018).

The zoning for cultivation of massifs is distributed in the following regions: Northern and Southeastern Bulgaria – 1463 ha with annual production 5408 t, Northwestern region – 528 ha with production 576 t, North Central region – 317 ha with production 982 t, Northeastern – 751 ha with 2891 t production, Southeastern region – 221 ha with production 959 t, Southwestern region – 340 ha with 1011 t annual production and South Central region – 299 ha with 1031 t production per year (Agrostat, 2018).

The characteristics of raspberry cultivars are limited in terms of fruit bearing period and their purpose mainly for fresh consumption or for freezing (Popov and Hristov, 1972; Hristov, 1980, 1983; Hristov and Boycheva, 1987; Hristov, 1991; Boycheva, 1999a; 1999b; 1999c; 2001; Serbezova, 2020). The alternatives are new and/or primocane cultivars, which bear fruit twice a year and for which their purpose is studied according to the harvest period and cultivar characteristics (Jennings, 1979; Daubeny, 2002; Miši and Nikolic, 2003; Lepasovic et al., 2006).

The objective of the present study is to evaluate the sensory profile of cultivars and candidate cultivars of raspberry and blackberry-raspberry hybrid on the basis of the overall sensory evaluation and the average evaluations on the indicators, such as appearance, colour, texture, aroma and taste.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fruits of the raspberry cultivars, of the candidate cultivars and the blackberry-raspberry hybrid were obtained from a collection plantation of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture, Troyan.

The following cultivars were included in the experiment:

- Raspberry: Willamette, Meeker, Marlboro, Newburg, Zeva, autumn bliss, Tulameen,
- Candidate-cultivar: Magdalena and Troyanski biser)
- Blackberry-raspberry cultivar: Medana.

- Raspberry: 'Willamette', 'Meeker', 'Samodiva', 'Marlboro', 'Newburg,' 'Lyulin', 'Zeva', 'Autumn bliss', 'Bulgarski Rubin', 'Tulameen', 'Shopska Alena';
- Candidate-cultivar: 'Magdalena' and 'Troyanski biser')
- Blackberry-raspberry cultivar: 'Medana'.

The experiment was conducted on fruits of 2018 harvest.

Soluble dry matter and active acidity were determined by the following methods:

1. Dry matter (refractometric) % – BDS 17257
2. Active acidity – BDS 11688
3. Sensory analysis

1. Dry matter (refractometric) % – BDS 17257
2. Active acidity – BDS 11688
3. Sensory analysis

Fruit samples of each genotype are presented and evaluated by trained tasters, who on a five-point evaluation scale with step 0.25, gave evaluations for each indicator that has a weighting factor, respectively: appearance – 0.30; colour – 0.20; texture – 0.20; taste – 0.20 and aroma – 0.10.

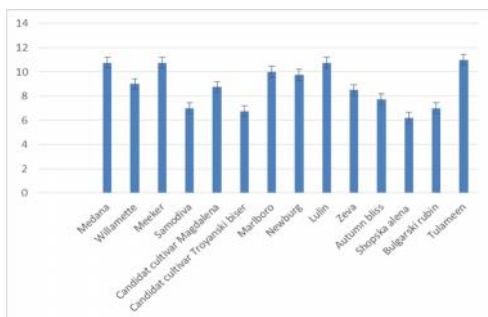
The results were processed according to the statistical methods of Lidanski (1988), using the programs of software product MS Excel – 2013.

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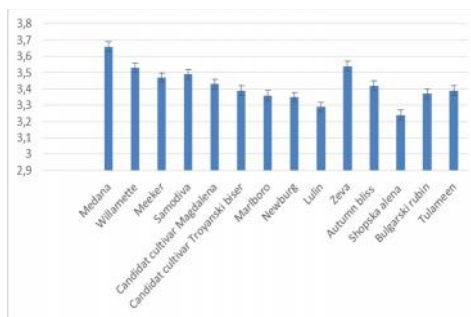
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from the conducted physico-chemical parameters of the raspberry cultivars are presented in Figures 1 and 2.

1 2.



1. (%)



2.

Fig. 1. Dry soluble solids (%) in raspberry cultivars

Fig. 2. Active acidity in raspberry cultivars

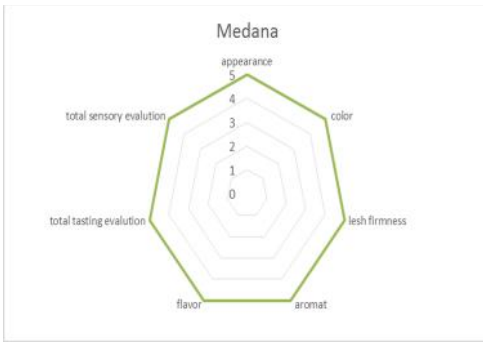
1 ,
 6.2 10.75%, - -
 - ,
 dana, Meeker, Tulameen.
 ,
 (P>0.05).
 4 (2). -
 dana (3.66) -
 Zeva (3.54) Willamette
 (3.53) (P<0.05),
 (P>0.05).
 3-16.

The data in Figure 1 show that the values of the studied indicator soluble dry matter vary from 6.2 to 10.75%. The lowest values were found in 'Shopska Alena', candidate cultivar 'Troyanski biser', 'Samodiva' and 'Bulgarski rubin', while the highest were in 'Medana', 'Meeker', Lyulin and 'Tulameen'.

The other cultivars have statistically indistinguishable values, which shows that the variety difference does not affect the dry soluble matter content (P>0.05).

The measured values of the active acidity of different genotypes are below 4 (Figure 2). The blackberry-raspberry hybrid 'Medana' (3.66) has the highest value of active acidity, followed by cultivars 'Zeva' (3.54) and 'Willamette' (3.53) (P<0.05), the other analyzed cultivars have statistically indistinguishable results of the studied indicator (P>0.05).

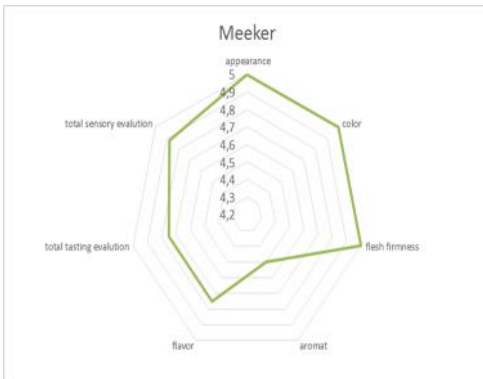
The sensory evaluation of the studied raspberry cultivars is presented in Figures 3-16.



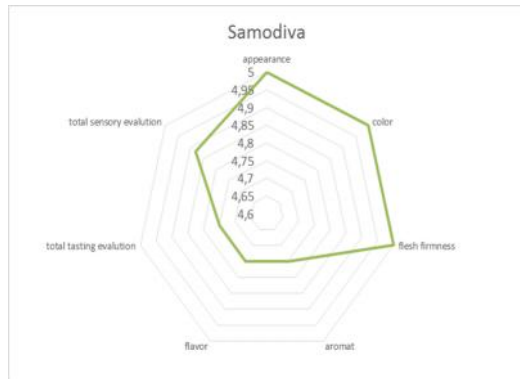
3. Medana
Fig. 3. Sensory evaluation of 'Medana' raspberry cultivars



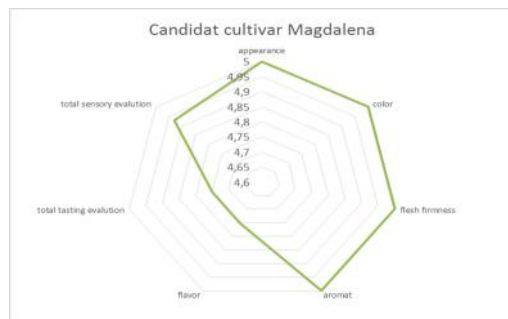
4. Willamette
Fig. 4. Sensory evaluation of Wilamette raspberry cultivars



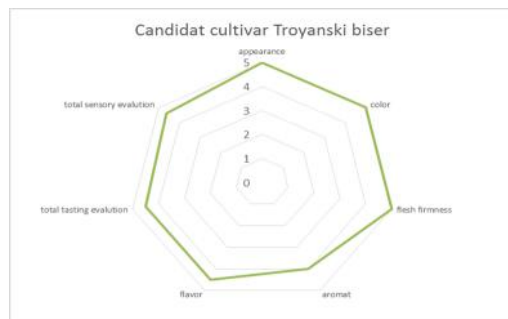
5. Meeker
Fig. 5. Sensory evaluation of Meeker raspberry cultivars



6. Samodiva
Fig. 6. Sensory evaluation of Samodiva raspberry cultivars



7. -
Fig. 7. Sensory evaluation of raspberry candidate cultivar Magdalena

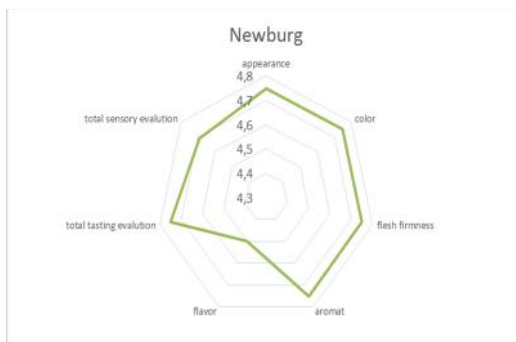


8. -
Fig. 8. Sensory evaluation of raspberry candidate cultivar Troyanski biser



9. Marlboro

Fig. 9. Sensory evaluation of Marlboro raspberry cultivars



10. Newburg

Fig. 10. Sensory evaluation of Newburg raspberry cultivars



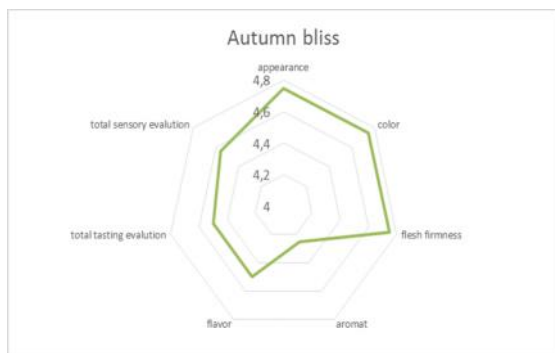
11. Lyulin

Fig. 11. Sensory evaluation of Lyulin raspberry cultivars



12. Zeva

Fig. 12. Sensory evaluation of Zeva raspberry cultivars



13.

Zeva
Fig. 13. Sensory evaluation of Zeva raspberry cultivars



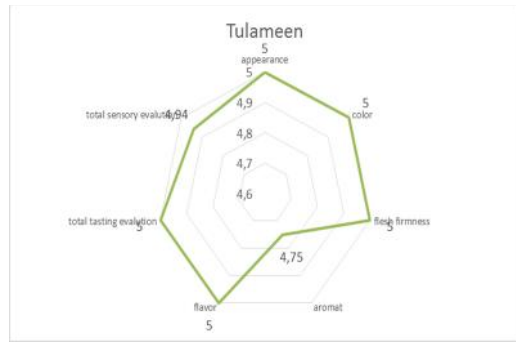
14.

Shopska alena
Fig. 14. Sensory evaluation of Shopska alena raspberry cultivars



15.

Fig. 15. Sensory evaluation of Bulgarski rubin raspberry cultivars



16.

Tulameen

Fig. 16. Sensory evaluation of Tulameen raspberry cultivars

(11).
 (<0.05), (15).
 (<0.05), (14).
 Willamette,
 Meeker,
 Medana Tulameen
 (3-9 16),
 (15).

- The cultivar variety is essential in
 - assessing the sensory characteristics of
 - the studied fruits. All cultivars have relatively
 - high scores on the indicator of appearance,
 - the fruits are in sizes from average-sized
 - to large-sized, with non-decomposing
 - pieces, with gloss of colour (Figures 3-16).
 - 'Lyulin' cultivar has the lowest statistically
 - distinguishable value compared to
 - the other studied cultivars ($P < 0.05$)
 - (Figure 11).
 - All cultivars have different shades
 - of red from bright red, intense red, ruby
 - red to dark red with high sensory ratings
 - from 4.5 to 5, (Figures 3-16). 'Bulgarski
 - rubin' has the lowest score statistically
 - different in terms of colour ($P < 0.05$),
 - (Figure 15).
 - For all cultivars in terms of texture,
 - only 'Shopska Alena' has lower
 - statistically different values compared to
 - the other cultivars ($P < 0.05$), (Figure 14).
 - The fruits of 'Willamette', 'Samodiva',
 - 'Meeker', candidate cultivar 'Troyanski
 - biser', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena',
 - 'Marlboro', 'Medana' and 'Tulameen' are
 - dense and juicy (Figures 3-9 and 16),
 - while the fruits of 'Bulgarski rubin' are of
 - moderate density (Figure 15).
 - In terms of aroma and taste of the
 - fruit, the cultivar difference is significant

(3-16). - (<0.05),
 , (8, 11 15). -
 Autumn bliss (13 14).
 Medana, Willamette Zeva (3, 4, 7 12).
 Zeva, Medana, Tulameen (3, 12 16).
 (4-13 14).
 11 15).
 Tulameen Medana, Meeker,
 Autumn bliss

(P<0.05), (Figures 3-16). The lowest grades in terms of aroma are found in candidate cultivar 'Troyanski biser', 'Lyulin' and 'Bulgarski rubin' (Figures 8, 11 and 15).

Tasters prefer fruits with a more perceptible aroma than 'Autumn bliss' and 'Shopska alena' (Figures 13 and 14).

Maximum grades in terms of aroma were obtained by 'Medana', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena', 'Willamette' and 'Zeva' (Figures 3, 4, 7 and 12).

For the taste indicator, the maximum values are given to fruits of 'Medana', 'Tulameen' and 'Zeva', which have a very good sweet and sour taste (Figures 3, 12 and 16). The raspberries of 'Bulgarski rubin' cultivar have the lowest taste rating. The other cultivars have a pleasant sweet-sour taste and average high grades, well received by the evaluators (Figures 4-13 and 14).

The fruits of 'Bulgarski rubin' and 'Lyulin' have the lowest total sensory evaluation (Figures 11 and 15).

Based on the summarized tasting assessment and physicochemical parameters, such as dry soluble substances and active acidity, the following uses of the cultivars have been determined: fruits 'Medana' and 'Tulameen' are good for fresh consumption, 'Meeker', 'Samodiva', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' for processing and semi-manufactured products, while 'Autumn bliss' is good for freezing.

CONCLUSIONS

A sensory characteristic was made and the physicochemical parameters of cultivars and candidate cultivars of raspberries and blackberry-raspberry cultivar 'Medana' were determined.

'Medana', 'Meeker', 'Lyulin' and 'Tulameen' had the highest values of soluble dry matter.

The fruits of 'Willamette', 'Samodiva', 'Meeker', candidate cultivar 'Troyanski biser', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena', 'Marlboro',

Medana.
 Tulameen dana, Meeker,
 Willamette,
 Meeker,

astenievadni nauki. Marlboro, Medana, Tulameen -

Medana, -
, Willamette Zeva
, Medana, Tulameen Zeva

-
: Medana Tulameen
, Meeker,
-
, Autumn bliss

'Medana' and 'Tulameen' are distinguished with the most densely texture.

'Medana', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena', 'Willamette' and 'Zeva' have the highest ratings in terms of aroma, while 'Medana', 'Tulameen' and 'Zeva' have the best taste.

Based on the obtained results, the purposes of the cultivars were determined: 'Medana' and 'Tulameen' for fresh consumption, 'Meeker', 'Samodiva', candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' for processing and for semi-manufactured products, 'Autumn bliss' for freezing.

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Malus sp.

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, 5600 ,

Valuable Local Early Ripening Apple Cultivars and Genotypes of Genus Malus in the Region of Troyan Balkans

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

Malus sp. - The local plant genetic resources of Malus sp. in the pre-Balkan region of the town of Troyan were studied.

8 - Eight cultivars and forms from the group of the early ripening apples were studied.

: - The following more widespread types were specified: 'Vista Bella', 'Mollies Delicious', 'Prima', forms of the group of 'Petrovki', 'Byala ranna' and 'Chervena ranna'.

- Their main morphological characteristics were studied: height, diameter, stalk length, colouring, biochemical analysis, fruit taste. Most of them have increased resistance to the main apple diseases, which allows their cultivation without the application of plant protection and makes them suitable for organic fruit production.

: - **Key words:** early ripening apples, apple cultivars, apple genogenetic types, genetic resources, morphology

INTRODUCTION

- In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the conservation and

(Vieir et al., 2009; Kikindonov et al., 2017; Martincová et al., 2017).

(Ivanova et al., 2009; Bozovic et al., 2013; Ferreira et al., 2016; Pereira-Lorenzo et al., 2018; Kumar et al., 2019).

(Bozhkova et al., 2006; Dragoyski et al., 2012; Dzhuvinov et al., 2016; Ivanova et al., 2018).

(10 000).

2016).

study of the genepool of cultivated and wild fruit species, as well as their products. The study of genotypes of local origin allows the selection of species in order to protect, preserve and enhance the biological diversity of local flora (Vieira et al., 2009; Kikindonov et al., 2017; Martincová et al., 2017). In response to the increased demand for organic fruits, an alternative is to use the rich fund of local genetic resources (Ivanova et al., 2009; Bozovic et al., 2013; Ferreira et al., 2016; Pereira-Lorenzo et al., 2018; Kumar et al., 2019).

A number of forms of the local genepool of fruit species have increased resistance to a number of economically important diseases. Therefore, the study and management of plant genetic resources is a priority in breeding programs (Bozhkova et al., 2006; Dragoyski et al., 2012; Dzhuvinov et al., 2016; Ivanova et al., 2018).

The apple is one of the fruit species represented by the greatest number of cultivars (over 10,000). The local genepool of fruit cultivars is characterized by their very good adaptability to adverse climatic conditions and less susceptibility to diseases and pests (Dzhuvinov et al., 2016).

The relatively high interest in this species is due to the good fruitfulness of apple trees, durability and good price of fruit. Apples are also a valuable dietary food. There is an exceptional variety in size, colour and taste of fruit and ripening period. Depending on the period of ripening, apple cultivars are divided into summer, autumn and winter. The main forms and cultivars that are grown in the region of Troyan are: 'Troyanka', 'Reinette du Canada', 'Jonathan', 'Manastirka', 'Tsiganka', 'Shekerka', and from the early ripening 'Petrovka', 'Mollies Delicious', 'Vista Bella', 'Prima' etc.

(Bozhkova et al., 2006; Vieir et al., 2009; Minev et al., 2011; Dragoyski et al., 2012; Wagner et al., 2014; Dimkova, 2015; Vitkov, 2015; Dzhuvinov et al., 2016).

The fruits of summer apple cultivars usually ripen in July-August. Most often they are smaller to medium-sized, their shelf life is short, so they should be used in a short time (Bozhkova et al., 2006; Vieira et al., 2009; Minev et al., 2011; Dragoyski et al. al., 2012; Wagner et al., 2014; Dimkova, 2015; Vitkov, 2015; Dzhuvinov et al., 2016).

The aim of the present study is to search for and study of early ripening cultivars and forms of apples with valuable biological and economic qualities in the region of Troyan.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted during the summer-autumn period of 2018-2020. A number of expeditionary studies were conducted to search for early ripening apple cultivars and forms in the region of Troyan. The trees are grown at an altitude of 400-750 m, in non-irrigated conditions and without plant protection measures. The soils are gray and dark gray forest. The average annual precipitation for the study period was 772.03 mm.

The biological and morphological features of fruits have been established according to the methodology for studying plant resources in fruit growing (Nedev et al., 1979). Their dimensions (mm) were determined; weight (g); fruit stalk length (mm); colouring of fruit skin; taste qualities; Their main biochemical composition was studied: dry matter (%) – refractometric; total, inverted sugar and sucrose – by the method of Shoorl.

The organic acid content was determined by titration with 0.1 N NaOH solution; Ascorbic acid (mg/%); Pectin (mg/%) – according to Melitz; The sugar-acid index was calculated by Stanchev et al. (Vitkov, 2015).

The presented results are the average of at least three determinations, the coefficients of variation are less than

2018-2020

400-750 m,

772.03 mm.

(Nedev et al., 1979).

(mm); (g);

(mm);

;

;

: (%) –

;

–

0.1 N

NaOH;

(mg/%) ; (mg/%) –

;

Stanchev et al. (Vitkov, 2015).

5%.

Microsoft Excel,

Lidanski (1998).

ANOVA,

5%. The obtained data were processed by ANOVA, Microsoft Excel Programs, according to Lidanski (1998).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Malus

8

During the expeditionary study of the genepool of genus *Malus* in the region of the town of Troyan, a large variety of old cultivars and forms of apples was found. Eight representatives from the group of early ripening apples were selected. Their fruits reached ripening stage from mid-July to early September. It is characteristic of this group that they do not ripen together and fall off easily. It has been established that in Petrovka group the reproduction is carried out by shoots. Due to the delicate fruit texture, they do not endure transport and are not durable during storage.

The morphological characteristics of selected forms and cultivars of fruits and their qualities were determined.

The fruit size is a hereditary feature of fruit species, cultivars, forms (Stoichkov et al., 1958). The size and colour of fruit in the present study vary widely.

The main fruit colour is a characteristic feature of the individual cultivars, but is also influenced by the location of the fruit in the crown and the sunlit side. For the studied cultivars, it is mainly green in colour and shades towards white and yellow, and in three of them it is red to dark red in colour.

Under the same conditions, the fruits of some of them were large, up to very large-sized, while others were average-sized, so to give a more accurate comparative estimate of the size of the fruits grown in a given habitat, the classification of Nedev et al. (1979) was used.

1958).

(Stoichkov et al.,

Nedev et al. (1979).

1.

Table 1. Biometrical indicators of early ripening apple forms and cultivars in the region of Troyan

| Form/ Sort | Weight (g) | Stalk length (mm) | Height fruit (mm) | Fruit average diameter (mm) | Proportion height/diameter | Colouring of fruit, taste qualities |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Petrovka F1 ¹ | 64 | 11,83 | 50,31 | 54,76 | 0,92 | Colouring: green, yellowish, fruit flesh-white, sour with a slight aroma, slightly rough. |
| Petrovka F1 ² | 71,8 | 12,79 | 47,56 | 57,53 | 0,83 | Colouring: pale green to yellow with a slight blush, fruit flesh whitish, slightly sour, crunchy. |
| Byala ranna | 88,34 | 10,8 | 48,9 | 59,3 | 0,82 | Colouring: pale green to white, fruit flesh-whitish, juicy slightly sour, crunchy, fragrant. |
| Chervena ranna | 120 | 8,38 | 51,22 | 66,22 | 0,77 | Colouring: red with darker stripes, fruit flesh-white, fragrant, juicy, with a slight acidity. |
| Vista Bella | 122 | 18,12 | 51,95 | 64,84 | 0,80 | Colouring: violet red fruit flesh-white with a greenish tinge, juicy, gently sweet sour with a slight aroma. |
| Mollies Delicious | 129 | 26,5 | 58,45 | 69,18 | 0,84 | Colouring: the skin is light yellow, covered with red stripes. fruit flesh-fine juicy, slightly sour, with a pleasant arom |
| Prima | 134 | 18,63 | 60,47 | 71,7 | 0,84 | Colouring: the skin is dark red with a waxy coating. fruit flesh-yellowish, juicy, sweet and sour. |
| Melody | 136 | 19,21 | 59,73 | 66,68 | 0,90 | Colouring: bright red fruit flesh-white, juicy, slightly sour. |

50 g; 51 100 g; 101-150 g; 151 200 g - 201 g.

1 (64 g) 2 (71.8 g) (1).

136 g; (134 g) (129 g).

8,38 mm 26,5 mm ().

17,0% 11,00% (). (1).

6,50mg% 10,2 mg% (9,5%), (5,85%).

Cultivated under the same conditions, apple cultivars are grouped according to size into five categories: very small-sized, when they weigh less than 50 g; small-sized when their weight varies from 51 to 100 g; average-sized when weighing 101-150 g; large-sized – from 151 to 200 g and very large-sized – over 201 g. According to the scale used, the studied cultivars and forms refer as follows:

The group of small-sized ones includes the forms 'Petrovka F1' (64 g) and 'Pertrovka F2' (71.8 g) (Table 1). The rest fall into the group of average-sized fruits. The highest average weight of one fruit was reported in 'Melody' cultivar with 136 g; followed by 'Prima' (134 g) and 'Mollies Delicious' (129 g).

Depending on the conditions and the area of habitat, the fruit shape and colour in genotypes may vary, but they are with relatively constant pomological indicators. In most of the studied apple varieties the shape of the fruit is flattened spherical.

Some of the local cultivars and forms have very good taste qualities ('Mollies Delicious', 'Prima', 'Vista Bella'). The length of the fruit stalk varied widely from 8.38 mm in 'Chervena ranna' to 26.5 mm ('Mollies Delicious').

The amount of the main biochemical ingredients determines fruit taste. The highest dry matter content of the studied forms was found in 'Ranna Chervena' (17.0%), and the lowest in 'Mollies Delicious' (11.00%). (Figure 1).

The amount of total sugars varied from 6.50 mg% in 'Mollies Delicious' to 10.2 mg% in 'Vista Bella'. The proportion of inverted sugars predominated in the ratio of total sugar. The highest value in relation to this indicator was reported in 'Vista Bela' (9.5%), followed by 'Melody' (5.85%). In the studied apple cultivars, sucrose ranged from 1.43% in 'Mollies

Delicious' to 4.18% in 'Byala ranna' (Figure 2).
 The highest levels of ascorbic acid were found in fruits of 'Petrovka F2' and 'Vista Bella' – 17.6 mg%, followed by 'Byala ranna' – 14.48 mg /% (Table 2). Organic acids ranged from 0.45% in 'Petrovka F2' to 0.67% ('Petrovka F1').

Table 2. Chemical analysis of fresh fruits of early ripening forms and varieties of apples from the region of Troyan

| Cultivar | Organic acids (%) | Vit. C (mg/%) | Pectin (mg/%) | Sugar-acid index |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 Petrovka F1 | 0,67 | 12,32 | 1,42 | 13,51 |
| 2 Petrovka F2 | 0,45 | 17,6 | 1,15 | 17,44 |
| Byala ranna | 0,64 | 14,08 | 1,98 | 14,69 |
| Vista Bella | 0,64 | 17,6 | 0,83 | 15,94 |
| Mollies Delicious | 0,57 | 10,56 | 1,27 | 11,40 |
| | 0,64 | 10,56 | 1,4 | 11,48 |
| Chervena ranna | 0,64 | 12,32 | 1,1 | 12,03 |
| Melody | 0,51 | 8,8 | 0,96 | 18,73 |

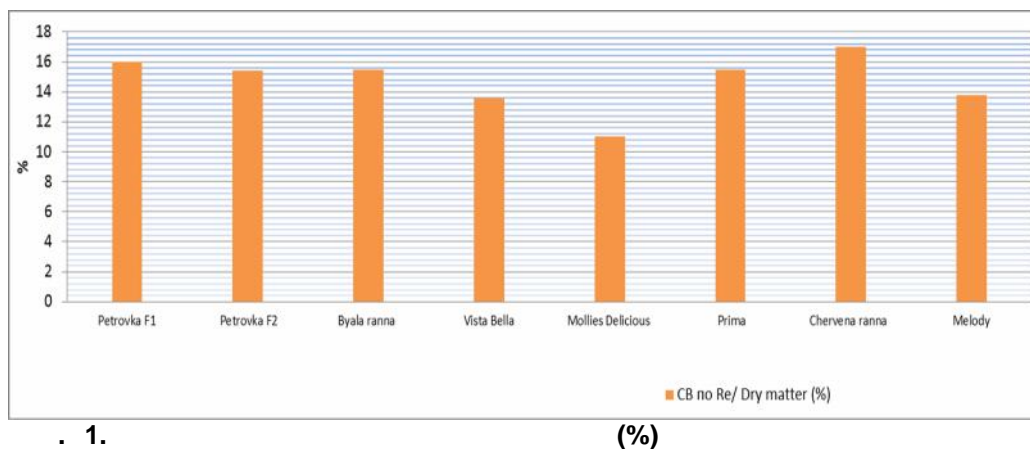
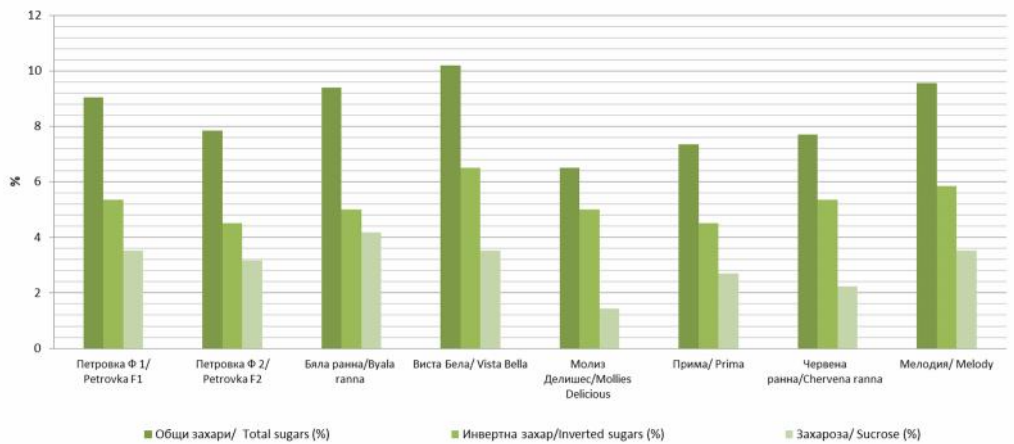


Fig. 1. Dry matter refractometric (%) of early ripening forms and cultivars of apples from the region of Troyan



. 2. (%), (%) (%)

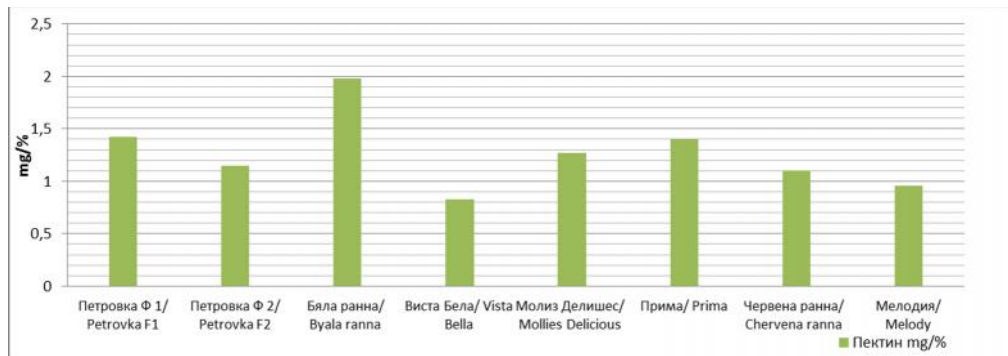
Fig. 2. Total sugars (%), invert (%) and sucrose (%) of early ripening forms and cultivars of apples from the region of Troyan

(Vieira et al., 2009).

(11,4),
(11,48).

(18,73), 20
2 (17,44).

The sugar-acid index is responsible for the taste and aroma of the fruit (Vieira et al., 2009). Apples that are sweet do not necessarily have high sugar content, but have a lower amount of organic acids. Low values were found in 'Vista Bella' (11.4), followed by 'Mollies Delicious' (11.48). The most balanced index with values close to index 20 were 'Melody' (18.73), 'Petrovka F2' (17.44).



. 3. (mg/%)

Fig. 3. Pectin (mg /%) of early ripening forms and cultivars of apples from the region of Troyan

0,83 mg%
 (0,96 mg%) 1,98 mg%
 1,1 – 1,42 mg% (3).

- An important indicator in apple fruit is the pectin content. It was from 0.83 mg% in 'Vista Bella', followed by 'Melody' (0.96 mg%) to 1.98 mg% in 'Byala ranna'. For other early ripening forms and cultivars, the amount ranged from 1.1 to 1.42 mg% (Figure 3).

- The non-simultaneous ripening of fruits prolongs their harvesting period, thus providing fresh apple production from mid-July to mid-September.

CONCLUSIONS

Malus sp. 8

- The region of Troyan is characterized by a great variety of early ripening local forms and cultivars. Eight early ripening forms and cultivars were selected from the study of the genepool of *Malus sp.* The great vitality of trees, the strong growth, fruit bearing and longevity show the favorable conditions for their cultivation in the area.

- The different ripening period of the forms and cultivars, as well as the non-simultaneous ripening of fruits on the tree, prolongs their harvesting period, providing a long time of fresh apple production.

- The results of the present study show that the 8 early-ripening cultivars and forms of apples are distinguished with great diversity of fruit skin colour, dry matter content, sugars, pectin and organic acids. This may be due to the specific geographical nature and different climatic characteristics

- Most of them have increased resistance to the main apple diseases, which allows their cultivation without the application of plant protection and makes them suitable for organic fruit production.

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