‘Baldwin’ Rabbiteye Blueberry

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‘Baldwin’ rabbiteye blueberry (Vaccinium ashei Reade) is a new cultivar originating from the cooperative blueberry breeding program of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and the USDA. It is a very productive, late-ripening cultivar with good flavor and firm, dark-blue fruit. Because of its lengthy ripening period ‘Baldwin’ is intended primarily for pick-your-own and backyard planting in areas of the southern United States where rabbiteye blueberries are grown successfully. ‘Baldwin’ is named in honor of Abraham Baldwin, Yale graduate, U.S. Senator, and founder and first president of the Univ. of Georgia.

Origin

‘Baldwin’, tested as clone T-117, was selected in 1963 from a cross of ‘Tifblue’ x Ga 6-40 (‘Myers’ x ‘Black Giant’) (Fig. 1) by W.T. Brightwell. It since has been evaluated by W.T. Brightwell, A.D. Draper, and M.E. Austin.

Description and Performance

Plants of ‘Baldwin’ are vigorous, upright, and they consistently produce high yields. Its berries are dark blue, medium size, and have small dry scars and good flavor. Fruit of ‘Baldwin’ ripens over a 6- to 7-week period, and begins at the same time as ‘Delite’. In 1984, the fruit harvest of ‘Baldwin’ in south Georgia (Alapaha) started 2 July and extended to 24 Aug. Average berry size was 2.3 g on 2 July and 1.8 g on 2 Aug. (Fig. 2). Fruit retained good flavor and soundness throughout the season. In fruit storage tests (15.5°C for 31 days), weight losses in ‘Baldwin’ and ‘Delite’ were similar (9% to 10%), but ‘Baldwin’ had fewer soft and decayed berries than ‘Delite’ (35% compared to 51%). These tests also indicated that ‘Baldwin’ fruit from the later harvests deteriorated more quickly than fruit of the earlier harvests.

Diseases have not been a problem with ‘Baldwin’. It is recommended for pick-your-own and backyard plantings. It requires hand picking and is not adaptable to machine harvesting. Cross-pollination by other rabbiteye blueberry cultivars is required for fruit setting. Its chilling requirement in initial tests was 450-500 hr below 7.2°C.

Availability

Limited supplies of 2-year-old nursery plants of ‘Baldwin’ were distributed to nurserymen early in 1985. Plants should be available to the public in spring of 1986. The USDA does not have plants for distribution.

Fig 1. Pedigree of ‘Baldwin’ blueberry.

Fig 2. Fruit of ‘Baldwin’ blueberry.

‘Henry Kelsey’ Rose

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‘Henry Kelsey’ rose combines winter hardness with free and recurrent flowering, high levels of resistance to mildew [Sphaerotheca pannosa (Wallr. ex Fr.) Lev., and a field resistance to blackspot (Diplocarpon rosae Wolf)]. ‘Henry Kelsey’ is the 3rd winter-hardy climber derived from this breeding program. It is an addition to ‘John Cabot’ (4) and ‘William Baffin’ (5) to which it compares well in winter survival, flower production, and mildew resistance. It is comparable to ‘John Cabot’ in blackspot resistance and length of flowering period, but ‘William Baffin’ is more resistant to blackspot and flowers one week longer. The bright red flowers of ‘Henry Kelsey’ are more attractive than the magenta flowers of ‘John Cabot’ and ‘William Baffin’. Another distinctive feature of ‘Henry Kelsey’ is the trailing growth habit. ‘John Cabot’ and ‘William Baffin’ have arching branches.

Origin

‘Henry Kelsey’ was derived from R. kor-desit Wulf and the seedling D24(Fig. 1). The latter was derived by 2 cycles of open pollination from S44. S44 was obtained by R. Simonet of South Edmonton, Alberta, from