Table 2. Performance of raspberry cultivars at Excelsior, Minn. in 1986 from a planting established in 1984.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>First harvest</th>
<th>Peak harvest</th>
<th>Yield (t/ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Berry wt (g/berry)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage</td>
<td>26 Aug.</td>
<td>23 Sept.</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Red</td>
<td>8 Aug.</td>
<td>2 Sept.</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwing</td>
<td>13 Aug.</td>
<td>2 Sept.</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scepter</td>
<td>9 Sept.</td>
<td>7 Oct.</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD (0.05)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Niessl) Sacc.] has been observed but has not been a serious problem. ‘Redwing’ has performed well on heavy soils, but response to Phytophthora spp. has not been determined. Field observations and virus-indexing after 10 years in evaluation plots at Excelsior, Minn. indicated no infection by raspberry bushy dwarf, tomato ringspot, or red raspberry mosaic viruses, although susceptibility to these viruses is unknown. Field counts of Amphorophora agathumbica Hott., the aphid vector of red raspberry mosaic virus, indicated that preference for ‘Redwing’ is similar to ‘Heritage’, but less than the known susceptible cultivars ‘Fall Red’ and ‘September’.

Availability

‘Redwing’ is propagated by cooperating nurseries under a royalty agreement with the Minnesota Nurseries’ Research Corporation. Limited numbers of plants for experiment station testing and for nurseries interested in propagating ‘Redwing’ are available from J.J. Luby, Dept. of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture, Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Literature Cited


‘Georgiagem’ Blueberry

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Additional index words: fruit breeding, Vaccinium corymbosum, low-chilling highbush blueberry

‘Georgiagem’, a new low-chilling cultivar, is the first highbush blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum L.) cultivar developed from the cooperative blueberry breeding program of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA. Although ‘Georgiagem’ originated mostly from tetraploid highbush blueberry parentage, it obtained adaptation to the southern U.S. environment from the diploid species, V. darrowi, selected from the wild in Florida (2). ‘Georgiagem’ is early ripening, moderately productive, and has fruit of medium size with good color, small stem scar, firmness, and pleasant flavor.

Origin

‘Georgiagem’, tested as clone TH-285, was selected in 1977 from a cross of G-132 x US75 [Fla-4B (V. darrowi) x ‘Bluecrop’] (Fig. 1). G-132 came from a cross of E-118 (‘Ashworth’ x ‘Earliblue’) x ‘Bluecrop’. ‘Ashworth’ is a native V. corymbosum plant selected in New York (1). The cross was made in 1972 at Beltsville, Md., and the seedlings were transplanted to the field at Tifton, Ga. in 1974. The clone has been evaluated subsequently at several locations in Georgia, including Alapaha, Bacon, Nicholls, and Tifton, and by others at Boonesville and Clarksville, Ark.; Castle Hayne, N.C.; Popularville, Miss.; Overton, Texas; and Gainesville, Fla.

Description and performance

In advanced 1986 performance trials in Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina, young plants of ‘Georgiagem’ were moderately vigorous and semi-upright at all sites except Texas and North Carolina (Fig. 2). ‘Georgiagem’ produced moderate yields of berries medium in size at Baxley, Ga. (1.4 g/berry average in the second picking). The fruit of ‘Georgiagem’ rated good for stem scar and very good for color, flavor, and firmness. Outstanding characteristics of ‘Georgiagem’ are that it roots easily and is early ripening with very good fruit quality. ‘Georgiagem’ flowers later than ‘Climax’, but ripens its fruit about 15 days earlier than ‘Climax’, an early ripening raspberry blueberry cultivar.

Based on the information thus far obtained, ‘Georgiagem’ is recommended for areas where low-chilling blueberries can be grown successfully. Preliminary tests have indicated that ‘Georgiagem’ requires chilling of at least 350 hr below 7.2°C. Diseases have not been a problem with ‘Georgiagem’.

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1Professor.
2Research Geneticist.
Availability

A limited supply of rooted cuttings of 'Georgiagem' was distributed to nurserymen in the southeastern United States in Spring 1987. The USDA does not have plants for distribution.

Literature Cited


Fig. 2. Semi-upright bush habit of 'Georgiagem' blueberry.