Victory' Plum

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Plum breeding started at Vineland in 1913. 'Victory' is the seventh in a series of European (*Prunus domestica* L.) and Japanese (*P. salicina* Lindl.) plum cultivars released from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario that include 'Valor', 'Vanier', 'Vee-blue', 'Verity', 'Vision', and 'Voyageur' (Tehrani, 1990). 'Victory' (Fig. 1) was introduced for planting in areas where European plums are grown commercially for fresh consumption.

Origin

'Victory' originated from a cross of 'Vision' pollinated by 'Valor' in 1972 (Fig. 2). The selection was made in 1980 and tested as Vineland advanced breeding selection V72331. The selection has been distributed to cooperative researchers for evaluation in Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, and the United States.

Description and performance

'Victory' was tested between 1983 and 1991 in a split-plot experiment with four paired-tree replications consisting of three rootstocks (main plots) and seven cultivars (subplots).

Fruits of 'Victory' are heart-shaped and large, averaging 62 mm long and 52 mm wide (Fig. 1). Mean fruit weight for the period 1988 to 1991 was 59 g, the highest among the seven cultivars tested (Table 1). The pit is semi-clinging, medium-sized, ovate-shaped, and accounts for 2.1% of the fruit weight. With the surface wax (bloom) completely removed, the skin of fully mature fruit is black, corresponding to color chart 202A (Royal Horticultural Society, 1966). With the bloom intact, skin color is violet-blue, corresponding to color chart 98B. These skin colors were characterized on the Hunter Color Difference Meter (Model D25D3; Associates

sistance to brown rot [*Monilinia fructicola* (Wint.) Honey] when the standard Ontario spray recommendations are followed.

The average maturity date at Vineland, Ont., was 22 Sept., the same as 'Bluebell' but 4 to 5 days after the standard cultivar Stanley. 'Victory' showed good graft compatibility with 'Myrobalan B' (*P. cerasifera* Ehrh.), 'Bronptom' (*P. domestica* L.), and 'St. Julien A' (*P. insititia* Bailey) and performed uniformly on all rootstocks (data not presented). Yields for 'Victory' were intermediate among the cultivars tested, and only 'Stanley' had a higher cumulative yield efficiency (Table 1). Trunk cross-sectional area

Laboratory, Fairfax, Va.), using a blue standard (Plate #C2-4958) (Table 2).

The flesh is greenish-yellow, firm, and juicy, and, in my judgment, flavor is fair to good. Fruit exhibits a moderate level of re-

Fig. 1. 'Victory' European plum.

Fig. 2. Pedigree of 'Victory' European plum.

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Table 1. Comparison of 'Victory' with other European plum cultivars for fruit and tree characteristics.

Cultivar	Mean fruit wt (g) (1988-91)	Cumulative yield (kg) (1986-91)	Cumulative yield efficiency ^z (kg·cm ⁻²) (1986-91)	Trunk cross-sectional area (cm ²) (1991)	No. black knots/tree ^y (1987)
Veeblue	44 c	91 B	0.8 B	113 B	4.0 A*
Stanley	34 g	133 A	1.1 A	118 B	1.6 B
Vision	56 b	70 C	0.4 C	162 A	1.3 BC
Victory	59 a	107 A	0.9 B	118 B	0.9 BC
Valor	51 d	99 B	0.9 B	122 B	0.8 BC
Bluefree	54 c	76 C	0.8 B	93 C	1.1 BC
Verity	39 f	131 A	0.8 B	159 A	0.2 C

^zCumulative yield efficiency = kilograms fruit per square centimeter of trunk cross-sectional area.

^yKnots, irrespective of size, as recorded in the spring.

*Mean separation in columns by Duncan's multiple range test. The lower and uppercase letters indicate difference at $P = 0.05$ and 0.01 , respectively.

Table 2. Skin color of 'Victory' plum as measured with a Hunter colorimeter.

Bloom	Color characteristics				
	L	a	b	Chroma	Hue
On	27.2	2.3	-6.4	6.8	-20.6
Removed	18.0	1.8	-0.8	2.2	-18.3

(square centimeters) for 'Victory' was similar to that of 'Stanley' on the three rootstocks, intermediate among the cultivars (data not presented).

In 1987, after a severe outbreak of black knot [*Debotryon morbosum* (Schw.) Th. & Syd.] in the test plots, 'Victory' was intermediate in the number of black knots recorded (Table 1).

Pollination

'Victory', which has self-incompatible flowers, is late-blooming with an average bloom date in mid-May at Vineland, similar to 'Italian', 'Stanley', and 'Valor'. 'Victory' is pollinized by 'Italian', 'Stanley', 'Verity', 'Vision', and 'Voyageur' European plums. However, 'Valor' and 'Veeblue' will not pollinize 'Victory' (Dale et al., 1992). 'Victory' pollinates 'Verity' and 'Vision' but not 'Valor' and 'Veeblue'.

Availability

Trees of 'Victory' are available from the major fruit tree nurseries in Ontario. This cultivar has been virus-indexed, and virus-free bud and scionwood are available on request from the Plant Quarantine Station, Agriculture Canada, 8801 East Saanich Road, Sidney, BC V8L 1H3 and from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, P.O. Box 7000, Vineland Station, Ont. LOR 2E0, Canada.

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