CULTIVAR RELEASES

‘Viva’ Sweet Cherry
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‘Viva’ is a medium sized, semi-firm, dark red, long-stemmed sweet cherry (Prunus avium L.) of good quality and crack-resistant. It matures with ‘Black Tartarian’ and belongs to Incompatibility Group IV (S2S3).

Origin
Sweet cherry breeding has been an ongoing program at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario since 1915. Nine cultivars have been introduced: ‘Victor’ in 1925; ‘Vernon’ and ‘Velvet’ in 1937; ‘Vista’, ‘Venus’ and ‘Vic’ in 1958; ‘Vega’ and ‘Valera’ in 1967; and ‘Viva’ in 1972.

This clone was distributed and tested as Vineland Selection 35033. The original cross for ‘Viva’ was made in 1935 by Mr. G. H. Dickson presumably between ‘Hedelfingen’ and ‘Victor’. However, recent compatibility studies indicate that ‘Hedelfingen’ is not the seed parent of this cultivar.

Compatibility status
‘Viva’ has given good fruit set when crossed with the following cultivars and selections: ‘Ulster’ (S2S4), ‘Schmidt’ (S2S5), ‘Lambert’ and ‘Vernon’ (S3S4) and ‘N.Y. 1625’ (S3S5). These represent the 4 possible S gene combinations of ‘Hedelfingen’ (S4S5) X ‘Victor’ (S2S3) cross. Further ‘Viva’ is incompatible with ‘Victor’, ‘Amber’, ‘Velvet’, ‘Sue’, ‘N.Y. 1504’, ‘N.Y. 1512’ and ‘V.35038’, all belonging to Incompatibility Group IV (S2S3). ‘Viva’ therefore belongs to Group IV. Sweet cherry cultivars belonging to other Incompatibility Groups will pollinate ‘Viva’ (1).

Description
‘Viva’ produces medium-sized, semi-firm, dark red, long-stemmed fruit of good quality. Average picking date at Vineland, Ontario is July 9, the same as ‘Black Tartarian’ and a day later than ‘Vista’. The fruit is lighter in color and somewhat less attractive than ‘Vista’. Trees are vigorous, spreading and of better shape than ‘Vista’.

Outstanding characteristics and uses
The fruit of ‘Viva’ is less clustered on the tree than that of ‘Vista’ and less susceptible to brown rot caused by Monilinia fructicola (Wint.) Honey. Records taken since 1944 in the Niagara Peninsula area show that this cultivar is almost immune to cracking. ‘Viva’ is primarily recommended for fresh market use.

Availability
Trees of ‘Viva’ are available from fruit tree nurseries in Ontario, Canada and U. S. A. Bud and scion wood of this cultivar are available on request from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ontario, LOR 2EO, Canada.

Literature Cited