## Planning and Developing a Modern Sweet Cherry Orchard

Lynn E. Long Oregon State University





China Japan South Korea

#### 35,000 - 50,000 tons/year

#### What should growers look for?

- Characteristics of desired varieties
  - Early to late harvest
    - 30-45 days +
  - Good shipping potential
    - Western Europe
    - Middle East
  - Large (28 mm +)
  - Firm
  - Rain crack resistant
  - Flavorful





### Cultivar Trial

- Established 1996
- Evaluated 100+
- Cultivars & selections
- Potential candidates for the Pacific Northwest cherry industry
- Thanks to Mel & Mike Omeg and Orchard View Farms





#### **Relative Harvest Timings**



#### Fruit Size of Selected Varieties (mm)



# Fruit Firmness of Selected Varieties (g/mm)







#### Fruit Pitting Potential of Selected Varieties





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# Fruit Cracking of Selected Varieties (% 2 hour soak)





#### Varieties to Consider for Season-Long Production



## Early Star

- University of Bologna
- Very early: 15 days < Van
- Large: 28-30 mr
- Blooms heavy b drop
- Low productivit
- Taste? Not very with strong acic
- Self-fertile







#### Frisco

- SMS California
- Very early: 10-15 days < Techlovan
- Susceptible to cracking
- Large 28 mm
- Medium firm 75 Durofel
- Precocious & productive
- Somewhat pendant like Kordia
- Sweet flavor 18 brix
- Self-fertile





#### Rocket

- SMS California
- Very Early 10-15 < Van
- Very large 30-34 mm
- Firm 78 Durofel
- good taste 17 brix
- Some rain cracking resist
- Strong, upright tree growth
- Stores well 4 weeks
- Self-sterile early, mid-bloom timing: Frisco, Santina

## Santina

- Summerland, BC Canada
- Very large
- Mid-Early
- Flavor is fair to good
- Tart/sweet but weak
- Very popular in Chile
- Nose end crack accentuated by rain
- Gisela 6 or Gisela 5
- Self-fertile





#### Blaze Star

- University of Bologna
- Moderately large
- Moderately firm
- Self-fertile
- Very good flavor, strong sweet/acid
- Rain tolerant

Harvest timing days +/- Van	Bloom timing +/- Van	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	Cracking potential 2014-2016 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013-2016 (Bing 2.7)
-6 days	0	28.6	260	5%	2.8



#### **Big Star**

- Early to mid season (5 days < Techlovan)
- Very large (30-32 mm)
- Firmness moderate to good
- Flavor very good, strong tangy flavor
- Productivity low even on Gisela 6
- Self-fertile

Harvest timing days +/- T-van	Bloom timing +/- Van	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	Cracking potential 2014-2016 (36%	Pitt 201 (Bi
				(Sova)	
-4 days	1-2	32.1	285	9%	2.4



## Grace Star

- Mid-season (3 days < Techlovan)
- Large fruit (28 mm +)
- Good flavor
- Firmness is marginal for long distance shipping
- Rain cracking susceptibility moderate
- Best on moderate to highly productive rootstocks
- Self-fertile







## Black Star

- University of Bologna
- Self-fertile
- Good flavor
- Moderately firm
- Precocious
- Productive

Harvest timing days +/- Techlovan	Bloom timing +/- T-van	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	Cracking potential 2014-2020 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013 2020 (Bing 2.7)	3-
0	+1 days	30.2	279	4.8%	2.55	

#### Techlovan

- Czech Republic
- Very pendant
- High Quality mid-season
- Excellent flavor
- Firm
- Cracks in rain
- Pollinizers: Skeena, Santina

Harvest timing days +/- Techlovan	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	Cracking potential 2014-2020 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 2020 (Bing 2.6)
0	31.8	302	952	35%	2.7



University

#### Kordia

- **General Impressions** •
  - **Excellent flavor** •
  - Ships well •
  - Rain tolerant ٠
  - Frost sensitive
- Italy Preferred cherry
- Chile Highly sought by China

- Best on prod. stock
- Suggested pollinizers



Skeena, Regina •

			-		RE	
Harvest timing days +/- Techlovan	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	SS Brix	Cracking potential 2014-2016 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 16 (Bing 2.6)
+ 6 days	29.6	311	907	18.6	12	2.6

#### Tamara

- Czech Republic
- About 1 week after Techlovan
- Excellent fruit size
- Excellent firmness 356 g/mm
- Very good flavor
- Stem pull force?
- S<sub>1</sub>S<sub>9</sub> Skeena, Kordia

Harvest timing days +/- Techlovan	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	Cracking potential 2014- 2017 (29% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 2017 (Bing 2.6)
+ 8 days	32.2	356	532	9%	2.34



## Lapins

- Summerland, BC Canada
- 28-30 mm
- Excellent firmness
- Some rain crack resistance
- Very upright growth habit
- Very productive
- Fruit grows in clumps
- MaxMa 14
- Self-fertile



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## Regina







#### Sweetheart

- Summerland, BC Canada
- Late 18-20 days after Techlovan
- 27 mm
- Very firm
- Very productive
- MaxMa 14
- Moderate to high cracking
- Self-fertile

Timing	Size	Firmness	Cracking *
-/- Van			
- 18	27.3 mm	356 g/mm	High

## Staccato

- Summerland, BC Canada
- Very late, ~25 days > Techlovan
- Fruit size 31 mm
- Excellent firmness
- Moderate intense sweet/acid flavor
- Rain cracking resistance
- Good productivity
- Gisela 6 or MaxMa 14
- Self-fertile



COLUMN DESCRIPTION Harvest Bloom Size Firm. Cracking Pitting timing timing (g/mm) potential 2013-(mm)2020 days +/-+/- Bing 2014-Techlovan 2020 (36%) 26 days +131 353 9% 2.7

## Available Cherry Rootstocks

#### **Commonly Available**

- Colt
- Mazzard
- Mahaleb
- Gisela 3, 5, 6, 12 (USA & Chile)
- MaxMa 14 & 60 (Chile)
- Cab-6P (Chile)
- Krymsk 5 & 6 (USA)

#### New Rootstocks

- Gisela 13, 17
- Weigi 1, 2, 3
- Corette Series
  - Cass, Clare, Clinton, Lake, Crawford



#### Relative Rootstock Size



The size may vary due to location, sons, chinatic conditions and scion.

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What Traits are We Looking For?



- 1. Increase productivity of lower yielding varieties (Kordia & Regina).
- 2. Provide precocity while moderating oversetting potential of high yielding var. (Lapins, Sweetheart).
- 3. Rootstocks like apples, good precocity (similar to Gi5), but more forgiving. Consistently good fruit set, without affecting fruit size.
- 4. Two vigor levels: 1) Precocity with vigor 2) Precocity with size control
- Precocious, size controlling rootstocks that perform well in poorer soils

Increase
productivity
of lower
yielding
varieties
(Regina,
Kordia, etc.)





## All 5 Corette cherry rootstocks induced scion flowering greater or equal to Gi5 and Gi6 in the third leaf

Average number of spurs on 'Bing' trees grafted on Corette rootstocks and Gi5 and Gi6 in 2011



<sup>1</sup>Means that are significantly different (P < 0.05) are denoted by different letters.

## Regina – Steep Leader The Dalles, Oregon

Rootstock	4 <sup>th</sup>	Leaf	5 <sup>th</sup> Leaf		
Selection	Yield tonnes/ha <sup>1</sup>	Fruit Size mm	Yield tonnes/ha <sup>1</sup>	Fruit Size mm	
Gi 5	18.3 a <sup>2</sup>	27.2 ab	3.8 b	28.0 ab	
Gi 6	23.2 a	26.8 ab	8.9 ab	29.2 a	
К б	17.0 a	27.5 ab	9.7 ab	27.8 ab	
Cass	22.7 a	27.2 ab	24.0 ab	27.9 ab	
Clare	13.0 a	28.0 a	15.2 a	29.1 a	
Clinton	21.7 a	27.0 b	13.5 a	27.3 b	
Lake	14.6 a	27.5 a	8.6 ab	28.4 ab	

<sup>1</sup>Yields per hectare were calculated as average yield per tree × number of trees per ha with 1,282 trees/ha (1.8 m × 4.3 m) for K5/K6 and Gi6; 1,536 trees/ha (1.5 m × 4.3 m) Gi5 and Clinton; and 1,922 trees/ha (1.2 m × 4.3 m) for Clare, Cass, and Lake. <sup>2</sup>Means that are significantly different (P < 0.05) are denoted by different letters.



2. Provide precocity while moderating oversetting potential of high yielding varieties (Royal Dawn, Sweetheart, Lapins).




3. Rootstocks like apples, good precocity (similar to Gi5), but more forgiving. Consistently good fruit set, without affecting fruit size

#### Weigi 1, 2, 3

- Total of 5 rootstocks
- Weiroot x Gisela
- Peter Stoppel
- Weigi 1, 2, 3





### Relative Tree Size at La Tapy France

- SARA PINCZON DU SEL
- Domaine Expérimental La Tapy





### Weigi Per Tree Yield and Fruit Weight - 2012



SARA PINCZON DU SEL, Domaine Expérimental La Tapy

Oregon State University

### 4. Two Tree Vigor Levels

#### **Precocity with vigor**

- Gisela 6 and 12
- Gisela 13 & 17
- Krymsk 5 & 6
- Weigi 1 and 3
- MaxMa 14 & 60

#### **Precocity with size control**

- Gisela 3 & 5
- Clinton, Lake, Cass, Crawford, Clare
- Weigi 2



### TCSA - E. Robin, Regina, Sweetheart



A. Iezzoni, B. Sallato & L. Long



# 5. Precocious, size controlling rootstocks that perform well in poorer soils

#### Gisela 13







### Year 7 TCSA Witzenhausen, Germany



### Year 6 Yield Witzenhausen, Germany



# 5. Precocious, size controlling rootstocks that perform well in poorer soils

#### Gisela 17

- Most vigorous of all Giselas
  - Similar size to MxM 14
  - More precocious
- Prunus canescens x P. avium
- Less potential for overcropping than Gi 5 or 6
- Combine with more productive cultivars
- "Less demanding of soil, climatic and cultural conditions than Gi5"









Summerland, BC – Year 7





#### Bing Yield – 3-7 Leaf



Corvallis, OR Bing





# Training System Options

#### Historic

- Open Vase
- Natural (no training)



#### Now

- Steep Leader
- KGB
- UFO
  - Vertical
  - Y trellis
- SSA
- TSA
- Tatura trellis
- Bibaum
- Palmatte



KGB





#### UFO





SSA





### Training Systems - Labor Savings

### Traditional Systems

- Large trees
- Full size rootstocks
- Labor intensive
- Expensive to manage
- Difficult to prune
- Low early yields
- Lower yields at maturity



### Training System Evolution

KGB, UFO and SSA examples of science-based systems

Simplified training and pruning

Created totally replicatable system

Every tree treated identically

Good yields of high quality





### Why Science-based Orchards Important

- Harvest Productivity
- We are losing our labor force
- Large Trees
  - 45 kg/hour
- Pedestrian Orchard
  - 78 kg/hour





### Why UFO, KGB in Washington

Labor

Dr. Matthew Whiting Lab, WSU

Cultivar	Training System	Mean Harvest Rate (kg/min)
Cowiche	UFO	0.81
Tieton	UFO	0.73
Sweetheart/Mazzard	KGB	0.72
Tieton/Gi5	Central leader	0.64
Bing/Mazzard	Traditional open center	0.63
Bing/Mazzard	4-5 leaders	0.47

Provided by Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis

### Why Science Based Systems are Important

- Pruning
  - Advantage of Science Based Systems
  - Every tree can be treated exactly alike
  - Teach to prune in 15 minutes
  - Each person given one task
  - Reduces complexity
  - Reduces mistakes
  - Makes pruning easier
  - Makes pruning faster



KGB



### One Year Old Laterals Removed

#### Only 2 steps to pruning



Why Pedestrian Orchards Important

- Pruning
  - SSA
    - At maturity
    - 1 pruning step



SSA



# Why Science Based Orchards Important

#### **Oregon Grower 1**

- Since planting KGB and other science based systems
- Cut labor force by <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
  - Hire fewer workers
  - Less paperwork
  - Fewer accidents





# Why KGB in Australia

#### Kym Green

#### Labor

- High labor cost \$25/hr
- Labor efficiency
  - Pruning from ground
    - 1-2 minutes/tree
    - 1777 trees/ha
  - Picking from ground
  - Ease of application
    - Bird net
    - Rain covers





### Why KGB in Australia

#### **Grower Yield Experience**

- 2012 Yields
  - Lapins: 26.67 tons/ha
  - Summit: 25 tons/ha
  - Regina: 24.99 tons/ha
  - Kordia: 10 tons/ha

#### Kym Green





### Why UFO in Washington State

#### Mark Hanrahan

#### Labor



• 500 boxes steep leader

#### Pruning

#### Pruning efficiency

- About same as steep leader
- Could increase **UFO efficiency** with platform







### UFO



#### 5<sup>th</sup> leaf fruit quality – Matthew Whiting, WSU

Variety	Yield/tree (kg)	Yield (m.tons/ha)	28mm+ (m.tons/ha)	25.4mm+ (m. tons/ha)
'Skeena'/Gi12	18.1	23.9	23.3	23.8
'Bing'/Gi12	28.7	38.1	15.9	34.7
'Tieton'/Gi5	12.6	16.3	15.2	16.3
'Skeena'/Gi5	10.5	13.8	13.2	13.8
'Chelan'/Gi12	10.5	13.8	6.5	12.5

# Super Slender Axe (SSA) Yields

50-100 cm





### SSA Cropping on basal buds of year-old shoots





# SSA Fruiting Wood

- All fruit borne at base of one year old wood
- Highest quality fruit on tree





### SSA Systems Trials (4 to 7 years old)

#### Italy (2007):

- 0.5 x 3.5 m Gi5 with Early Bigi; Sweet Early; Early Star; Grace Star; Black Star; Summit; Sylvia; Ferrovia; Kordia; Regina
- 0.7 x 3.5 m Gi6 with Sweet Early; Giorgia; Grace Star

Michigan (2009, 2010, 2011):

- 0.6 x 2.2 m BlackPearl/Gi12, Kordia/Gi5, Selah/Gi5
- 0.75 x 3.5 m Benton/Gi3, Benton/Gi6
- 0.75 x 2.5 m Gi5, Gi6 with RadiancePearl; EbonyPearl/Gi5

New York (2010):

0.75 x 3.5 m Gi3, Gi5, Gi6 with Regina

Greg Lang, Michigan State University

Green = good yields, Red = poor yields, white = moderate yields or insufficient data

Second trial (Beltrami farm)- Vertical axis. Planting distance 4.0 x 0.5 m – Planting density 5,000 alb./ha. Year of plantation 2004 – Productive data 2006-Slide courtesy of Stefano Musacchi

	2006 (year3)		2007 (year 4)			2008 (year 5)			
Cultivar	Weight/tr ee. (kg)	Fruit weight(g)	Calc. Yield (t/ha)	Weight/tr ee. (kg)	Fruit weight(g)	Calc. Yield (t/ha)	Weight/tr ee. (kg)	Fruit weight(g)	Calc. Yield (t/ha)
KORDIA	1,05	11,24	5,3	3,60	10,21	18,0	1,64	14,7	8,2
FERROVIA	1,64	11,32	8,2	4,70	9,30	23,5	2,97	13,6	14,9

Cultivar	Cum. yield 2006-08 (kg/tree)	Cum. Yield 2006-08 (t/ha)	Trunk area section 2008 (cm2)	Yield eff. (kg/cm2)
KORDIA	6,3	31,4	21,2	0,30
FERROVIA	9,3	46,6	23,5	0,40

### Second trial (Beltrami farm)- Vertical axis. Planting distance 4.0 x 0.5 m – Planting density 5,000 alb./ha. Year of plantation 2004

Fruit size distribution 2008



Slide courtesy of Stefano Musacchi

#### Four Simple Steps to Pruning Cherry Trees on **Gisela and Other Productive Rootstocks** L.E. Long

runing and training trees on productive rootstocks, such as Gisela® 6 or 12, requires techniques that are completely counter to pruning trees on Mazzard rootstock. When producing cherries on Mazzard rootstock, orchardists must constantly think about how to encourage precocity and productivity in the tree, whereas when producing cherries on productive rootstocks, they must focus on reducing crop load and increasing vigor.



Tree vigor is important because more leaves mean more carbohydrate production and larger cherries. The production of high-quality cherries requires a gross canopy leaf area-to-fruit (LA:F) ratio of at least 200 cm2 of leaf area per fruit, which roughly translates to five leaves per fruit (Whiting and Lang, 2004). Trees with a lower LA:F ratio are unable to manufacture enough carbohydrates to produce premium cherries.

Pruning strategies for trees on productive rootstocks should focus on the following:

- · Thinning cuts to remove pendant (downwardhanging) and weak wood and to improve light penetration into the tree
- · Stub cuts to reduce crop load and renew spurs
- · Heading cuts to encourage branching (leaf production) and reduce crop load

#### Thinning cuts

Each year, begin by removing any pendant or small-diameter wood at the point of its origin. Typically, these branches overset and produce small cherries. Removing these branches in the dormant season can eliminate a significant amount of small cherries before they develop.

Also reduce branches in the top of the tree and on the perimeter to a single shoot.

These thinning cuts will allow light to reach the inner and lower portions of the tree. Only leaves in full sunlight can photosynthesize at maximum capacity.

#### Stub cuts

The current season's crop can be reduced by heading with stub cuts. Stub cuts also replace branches and renew old spurs.

The highest quality cherries grow at the base of last year's growth and on young spurs. Therefore, no spur should be older than 5 years old. To keep spurs within this age range, stub back and renew 20 percent of all fruiting branches each year.

Adequate light must reach the area around the cut in order for a new branch to form. For this reason, cut branches located near the tree base to a longer stub than those near the tree top. Stubs can range from 3 inches to 2 feet in length, depending on the position of the branch in the tree.

Lynn E. Long, Extension faculty (horticulture), Wasco County, Oregon State University.

A Pacific Northwest Extension publication Oregon State University • University of Idaho • Washington State University

#### • Lynn Long pruning Gisela trees





### Lynn Long



### Greg Lang


#### L. Long, G. Lang, S. Musacchi, M. Whiting

#### A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY 
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY 
UNIVERSITY 
In cooperation with MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

### Lynn Long Cherry Training Systems App Store: Cherry Pruning

#### TRAINING SYSTEM: SUPER SLENDER AXE

#### STAGE: First dormant season

#### GOALS

- Impose bud-activation techniques to stimulate additional extensive lateral shoot formation on leader.
- Begin "short-pruning" of existing lateral shoots to simultaneously balance leaf area with second-year crop load and renew or initiate new fruiting laterals.



- SSA "short-pruning" is done by removing the majority of the length of each 1-yearold (previous season) shoot, retaining only the basal flower buds plus at least two vegetative buds for new shoot formation (Figure 46a). Lower branches can be left slightly longer than upper branches.
- Short-pruning may be accomplished best during bud swell, when it is easier to differentiate between the rounded flower buds and the more pointed vegetative buds (Figure 46b).
- When leader extension has been moderate, bud activation steps can be taken (as described above) to induce another 10 or more lateral branches on this leader growth, repeating as needed until the full tree height is achieved.



Figure 46a



Figure 46b







### **SWEET CHERRIES**

Lynn E. Long, Gregory A. Lang and Clive Kaiser

#### CROP PRODUCTION SCIENCE IN HORTICULTURE



#### www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781786398284/



# Why UFO in Washington State

### Grower Fruit Quality Experience

- Yield & Fruit Quality
  - Hand thinning may be necessary on some varieties
  - Especially in 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> leaf
  - Other systems prune to reduce crops
  - Costing \$2500/ha



### Mark Hanrahan



### Nimba

- SMS Genetics California
- Very early
- Good size ~ 30 mm
- Moderate firmness
- Flavor sweet/weak
- S<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Pollinizer: Pacific Red, Royal Hazel
- Moderate cracking
- Productivity good



# Pacific Red

- SMS California
- Very early
- Good size 28-30 mm
- Excellent firmness
- Moderately strong but pleasant flavor
- S<sub>4</sub>S<sub>9</sub> Pollinizer Nimba, Royal Hazel
- Productive





# Royal Tioga

- Zaiger Genetics California
- Early
- 28-30 mm
- Good firmness
- Sweet/good flavor
- Blooms early
- Self-fertile





Harvest timing days +/- Techlovan	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	Cracking potential 2014-2020 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 2020 (Bing 2.6)
-10 days	30.24	335	1294	10.5%	2.75

## Royal Hazel

**Zaiger Genetics** 

500 Chilling hours

First bloom 7 days before Bing

Fruit set - 2013-2016 Heavy

Excellent, strong sweet/acid flavor

Very early bloom  $S_4S_6$  - Royal Lynn or Royal Tioga as pollinizers ////



- Very Early: 10 to 15 days before Techlovan
- Popular in Chile & Spain
- Best at 18-20 brix
- Large 28 mm
- Tree is precocious & productive
- Storage > 30 days problematic
- Fruit cracking high
- Self-sterile: Black Star, Samba, Bellise, Earlise

## Royal Dawn



## **Royal Bailey**

- Zaiger Genetics- California
- Early ripening
- 30-32 mm
- Moderate firmness
- Susceptible to cracking
- Early bloom
- S<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Pollinizer Frisco



Photo by International Plant Selection

# Royal Edie

- Zaiger Genetics California
- Very large
- Very firm
- Regina timing
- Somewhat mild flavor
- Very meaty
- Crunchy
- Moderate susceptibility to rain
- Self-fertile





### Sweetheart average per tree yield and fruit size – The Dalles

## Sweetheart Average Yield/Tree (kg) (2-7 leaf) and Average Fruit Size (4-7 leaf)





Harvest timing days +/- Bing	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	Cracking potential 2014-2016 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 2016 (Bing 2.7)
+28 days	29.8	404	666	19.0	2.56

## Sentennial

- Summerland, BC Canada
- Very late 28-30 days > Van
- Somewhat mild flavor, but good
- Excellent firmness
- 29-30 mm
- Moderate cracking
- Heavy producer on Gisela 6
- Self-fertile

## Sovereign

- Summerland, BC Canada
- Very late 33 days > Van
- 31 mm
- Excellent Firmness
- Good flavor medium strong
- Resistant to cracking
- Productive
- Gisela 6, MxM 14
- Self-fertile

Harvest timing days +/- Bing	Size (mm)	Firm. (g/mm)	PFRF (g)	Cracking potential 2014- 2016 (36% Skeena)	Pitting 2013- 2016 (Bing 2.7)
+27 days	31.3	364	984	9.2	2.64

# Practical Steps in Establishing a Modern Sweet Cherry Orchard

Lynn E. Long Oregon State University



# Sweet Cherry Varieties, Rootstocks and Training Systems for the Modern Sweet Cherry Orchard

Lynn E. Long Oregon State University

