

Fruit Demonstration

Established May 2009

Objectives To demonstrate varieties of fruits being developed by the University of Saskatchewan

Collaborators Bob Bors – University of Saskatchewan Project Leader Domestic Fruit Program

Background

Dwarf sour cherries are not a native crop to the Canadian Prairies. They are the product of a number of crosses were initially begun by Dr. Les Kerr of the University of Saskatchewan by crossing a cold hardy cherry from Siberia, *Prunus fruticosa*, with a sour cherry originating in Europe (brought over by settlers) by the name of *Prunus cerasus*. Since then the development has continued by incorporations of other cherries and by the use of dwarfing root stalks. The advantage of the dwarfing root stalk is that it forces earlier fruiting from the plant and it also creates a more workable tree when harvesting, for both manual and mechanical pickers. Dwarf sour cherries constitute the very typical “cherry pie filling” cherry.

The Haskap berry was introduced to Canada around 1967 and now grows across the country, thanks to new varieties developed by the University of Saskatchewan. Fruit growers should consider planting Haskap berries in their orchards because they attract fewer pests and require little maintenance. Manitoba and the rest of the Canadian prairies are a natural fit for Haskap because of its cold craving nature. Haskap is also the first berry to ripen and pickers can enjoy the berry beginning in the mid-June. Haskaps have a sort of blueberry/raspberry feel to them – tart, but perfect for baking.

Birds are of course a problem for both of the above fruits and appropriate measures must be taken to prevent the loss of berries.

Results

A new bird netting setup enabled much higher yield results in the Sour Cherries for 2019. Unfortunately the haskaps came into fruit before the structure was complete, so yields for them were almost zero. A comparative chart below shows successive yields since 2016.

Materials & Methods

Entries: 4 Haskap varieties; 5 Dwarf Sour Cherry varieties

Agronomic info

Soil Type: Erickson Loam Clay

Landscape: Rolling with trees to the east

Planted: June 2009

Table 1: Dwarf Sour Cherry and Haskap Varieties

Haskap	Cherry
Borealis	Valentine
Tundra	Romeo
9-92	Juliet
9-15	Carmine Jewel
	Cupid

Figure 1: Roblin Haskap Performance 2016-2019

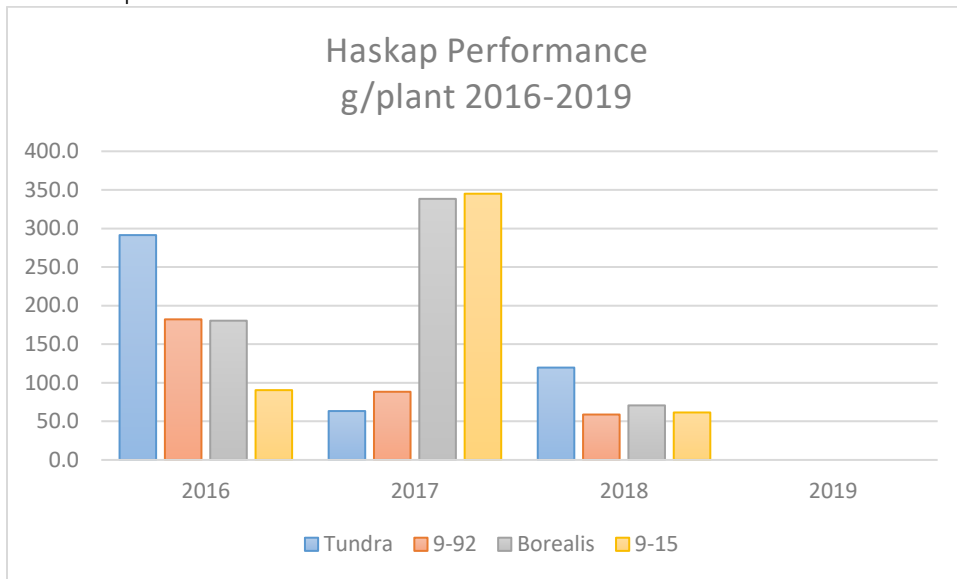


Figure 2: Roblin Sour Cherry Performance 2016-2019

