

# COMPACT FRUIT TREE

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

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## SWEET CHERRY EXPANSION

This issue of *Compact Fruit Tree* is primarily devoted to sweet cherry orchard management. Around the world consumers like fresh sweet cherries. There is currently a worldwide trend to increase new plantings of sweet cherries. At least four important reasons for the increase in plantings are 1) a strong consumer demand, 2) improved technology making the growing of sweet cherries more intensive, efficient, and less risky, 3) promising new varieties and 4) a switch to cherry away from poorly paying apples.

New dwarfing and precocious rootstocks and high quality early and late season varieties are causing excitement in the cherry business. Changes in cherry production today mirror the changes that occurred 50 years ago in the intensification of apple production. In Europe high density apple plantings of supported trees on dwarfing rootstocks (primarily M.9) revolutionized the way apples were grown.

Improved labor efficiency, earlier cropping and more precise targeting of sprays were the big benefits. Today these same benefits are stimulating change in the way we grow sweet cherries. With availability of dwarfing and precocious rootstocks, growers have the tools to intensify, improve labor efficiency, and with covers reduce risk. The need to improve labor efficiency is even greater with cherry than with apples. In the US the transformation of the cherry industry is occurring rapidly, following closely behind new developments announced by researchers in Europe, the US and Canada. This issue of *Compact Fruit Tree* features articles on sweet cherry management presented at the February 2001 IDFTA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is exciting to see the acceptance of intensification and new varieties that will help growers be successful and make consumers happy.

## IDFTA CALENDAR

### 45th Annual Conference

February 16-20, 2002

Grand Hotel (phone 250-763-4500)

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Kelowna airport is served by several airlines from Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, WA, and Calgary, Alberta.

There will be an optional pretour on Saturday, Feb. 16. Excellent winter sports facilities are available nearby at Big White and Silver Star ski resorts.

### Summer Tour

June 22-25, 2002

Nova Scotia, Canada

### 46th Annual Conference

February 2003

Orlando, Florida

### 47th Annual Conference

February 2004

Santiago, Chile, South America

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