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Improving the processing of raspberry by freezing**

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SUMMARY

- Raspberry fruit is very sensitive and susceptible to rapid decay. The decline in quality starts practically from the moment when the fruit is picked. Fruits initially lose strength, then release the juice, intensify the development of mold and at last the rotting process starts.
- The goal of all technological processes after harvest is to stop the degradation and loss of fruit quality.
 - This is achieved by deep freezing in cold

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90%

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90% and Cerovi (Leposavi and Cerovi, 2009).

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(1990-)

1980- -

, storage, or fruit processing in home-made, crafts or industrial capacity in a variety of products (hot processing).

- Today, about 90% of harvested raspberry fruits in the Republic of Serbia freezes. In the world, there are several methods for freezing fruits and other food products. In our country, two main methods for freezing raspberry fruits are used: freezing in the classic tunnels and freezing in the flow-through tunnels (fluidizer).

- Freezing in flow-through tunnels, which have a much higher daily capacity compared to conventional, is mainly applied in large cold storage. The introduction of sophisticated processing equipment in cold storage in recent years has significantly improved the processing of raspberry by freezing. With this improvement a significantly higher percentage of higher quality categories of frozen raspberries is achieved.

Key words: Raspberry, fruit, freezing, processing equipment, quality categories

INTRODUCTION

In the Republic of Serbia, around 90% of harvested raspberry fruits are frozen today (Leposavi and Cerovi, 2009). Despite the large number of fruit-freezing methods that are used worldwide, the local practice in Serbia relies on two basic methods for raspberry freezing: freezing in classical tunnels, and freezing in flow-through tunnels (fluidisers).

- Cryogen freezing was also applied during a limited period (mid 1980s – end of 1990s) by a small number of cold storage facilities.

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- The flow-through tunnels (fluidisers) possess a considerably higher daily freezing capacity compared to the classical systems and are typically used as part of large cold storage facilities.
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- However, in recent years the largest quantities of raspberries are frozen in small freezing facilities, typically located in the close vicinity of raspberry plantations, sometimes even within the plantation itself.
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- Regardless of its capacity, a cold storage must provide the required conditions and the space for the following functions: (1) quantitative and qualitative reception – a loading dock; (2) under-cooling (cooling chamber); (3) freezing (one or several small chambers with 1-10 tons capacity per batch); (4) storage of frozen raspberry in the original form (freezing chamber); (5) processing of frozen raspberry; (6) storage of finished products; (7) dressing room; (8) canteen; and (9) hygiene-sanitary unit (toilets, bathrooms).
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- The units specified under 1 to 9 above must be located under the same roof.
- The paper presents the enhanced method of processing frozen raspberry in the market of the Republic of Serbia, depending on the capacity of the cold storage.

Technological methods of raspberry freezing

The technological method of processing fresh into deep-frozen raspberries consists of the following stages:

- Reception of raw material.
- The reception of fresh raspberry represents the first stage in the technological method of converting the fresh into deep-frozen raspberry. The reception is typically performed at the loading dock or under the open sheds, which are an integral part of the cold storage facility. During the reception, the quantitative and qualitative condition of the fresh raspberry is determined (Veljkovi et al., 2010).

- In order to assess the quality of raw material at the reception, mechanical analysis of the fruit is performed, determining the category of the fruits. The quantity of the raw material is determined following the quality assessment, by measuring the load at the weighing station or adequate smaller scales.

- Under-cooling is performed immediately after the qualitative reception of the fresh raspberries, when these are taken to the under-loading chamber, where the temperature is lowered by the required standard. Since raspberry represents a perishable raw material, the lowering of the temperature to the pre-set level (between 0 and + 4°C) stops the activity and development of micro-

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-30° -35°C.

-19°C.

-35°C.

organisms, thereby terminating the processes of fermentation and disintegration of the raw material.

Freezing. Premises where freezing of the fresh raspberry takes place are usually referred to as classical freezing tunnels.

Flow-through tunnels are modern devices capable of performing fresh raspberry freezing within 12 minutes. Entering the flow-through tunnel from the feeding side, the fresh raspberry is transported by the means of a conveyor belt along the tunnel, where it is exposed to the current of cold air. Within 12 minutes, the raspberry is frozen, before exiting the tunnel on the opposite side. The air temperature in the tunnel ranges between -30° and -35°C. The temperature of the frozen raspberry exiting the tunnel ought to be in the range between -16° and -19°C. Raspberry undergoing freezing in the flow-through tunnel must be first processed in the under-cooling chamber.

Classical or discontinued tunnels represent smaller-size rooms capable of sustaining a temperature of -35°C. By using powerful fans, air flow is generated inside the chamber itself. Inside these tunnels, the freezing of raspberry is performed with the fruits placed in plastic trays stacked onto wooden pallets. The classical tunnel is first filled with pallets containing fresh raspberry, before the tunnel is closed and the

12 24 ,

-17 -19°C.

- freezing system activated. The freezing process lasts between 12 and 24 hours, depending on the tunnel capacity. After the freezing is completed, the freezing system is switched off and the tunnel is emptied, thus completing the process.

The temperature of the raspberry frozen in the classical tunnel ought to be in the range between -17 and -19°C.

- The flow-through tunnel represents an advantageous solution for the quality of raspberry freezing process, both owing to the shorter freezing time and the better quality of the freezing itself, making a positive impact on the preservation of organoleptic qualities of the frozen raspberry.

However, the classical tunnels secure a larger proportion of Rolend (owing to lower breakage of fruits).

- Gauging (separation of raw material according to quality classes). Raspberry frozen in this way represents a semi-finished product in the processing sequence and is typically referred to as the 'original'. Following this stage, it is best to separate the 'original' according to four quality classes, as follows:

- (Rolend);
- (bruh);
- raw material for Rolend;
- raw material for bruh;
- raw material for grit, and

- (block).
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- block raspberry.
- This type of fast sorting is enabled by vibration sorting machine, which can have a capacity of up to 4 t/h. This type of sorting must be performed immediately after the freezing, in order to secure the following:
- the processing capacities can have an instant assessment of the percentage of Rolend in the overall quantity of the 'original' raspberry;
- subsequent processing of raspberry is much easier, faster and more cost-effective; and
- response to the customers' demands is much faster (grit, bruised and Rolend can be delivered immediately, which is not possible with unsorted 'original').
- After freezing in classical tunnels it is recommended to leave the raspberry in the chamber for some time to settle down, before being reloaded out of the plastic trays. By doing this, a high proportion of Rolend is secured. Pouring over the raspberry and sorting it out into four quality classes is performed at the line composed of the following elements:
- Conveyor belt for reloading of raspberry;
- Vibration sorting machine with three fields; and
- Non-powered sloping roller bed.

The 'original' raspberry is poured from the tray to the reloading conveyor belt, where the operators perform basic inspection: removal of undesired particles (leaves, grass, pieces of broken trays, etc.), and separation of raspberry blocks.

The conveyor belt moves the raspberry to the vibration sorting machine, where it is separated into the raw material for grit, raw material for bruh and Rolend.

The non-powered sloping roll bed preserves the Rolend raw material from getting crushed, since the material constantly slides down the sloping side of the box.

When freezing is performed in a flow-through tunnel, the line for reloading and sorting is set at the exit from the tunnel, with the technological method being identical to the freezing performed in the classical tunnel.

Following the separation, the material is collected inside cardboard boxes with a polyethylene lining.

Storage. Each of the separated quality classes of the raw material (Rolend, bruh, grit) is stacked onto separate box pallets, before being taken to the storage chamber, where it is stored in its separate place. When doing this, care must be taken to secure an easy access to each of the respective raw material stocks, so

		-	as to secure their free processing in accordance with the customers' requirements.
		-	The raw materials are stored at the temperature of between -19 and -21° C.
-21° C.		-	Sorting. All of the quality classes of raspberry (raw material for Rolend, raw material for bruh and raw material for grit and block) are sorted in the subsequent stage of processing. Sorting is performed in special rooms with controlled working temperature.
		-	The most favourable temperature range for sorting is between 0 and +4°C.
0 +4°C.		-	Sorting of frozen raspberry is performed at a special line with a combination of elements depending on the size and capacity of the cold storage, which mainly follows the following classification:
	I -	500 t:	I – Capacities of up to 500 t:
			- vibration sorting machine,
			- inspection conveyor,
			- desk with lighting,
			- scales,
			- non-powered roll bed (placed at points where raspberries are collected inside boxes)
			- plastic bags welding unit
			- floor mats for standing operators.
	II -	500 t:	II – Capacities of over 500 t:
			- vibration sorting machine,

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- separating conveyor
- inspection conveyor (two, three or four inspection belts connected into a system),
- collection belt for Rolend,
- collection belt for soft selection
- desk with lighting (two, three or four units),
- scales,
- non-powered roll bed (placed at points where raspberries are collected inside boxes)
- plastic bags welding unit
- floor mats for standing operators.

In recent years, there is a growing use of lasers in sorting of raspberry grit and raspberry bruised, whereas the Rolend raw material is still sorted manually in order to prevent whole fruits from crushing.

Laser-aided selection of fruits considerably reduces the number of operators needed for this operation, thus improving its cost-effectiveness.

In order to start the process of raspberry sorting, it is necessary to pre-define the desired quality classes beforehand (Mili et al., 2013). There are four most typical quality classes of frozen raspberry that are commonly used in practice: Rolend, bruised, grit and block.

While Rolend represents the principal product of frozen

(Mili et al., 2013).

raspberry, the other three classes represent its by-products. The share occupied by Rolend in the total quantity of frozen raspberry fruits mainly determines the financial viability of the entire process of production and processing of this fruit type, due to two groups of basic factors involved:

- for a number of years, the price ratio between Rolend and other classes of frozen raspberry (grit, block, bruha) in the global market has been 2:1; and
- increased share of Rolend in the original raspberry makes it possible to reduce the costs of labour force deployed for sorting, as a major item in the total processing costs. To illustrate this, an average operator in the Arilje-based cold storage facility manages to process a quota of 50 kg of the original during the seven hours' working shift, provided that the original contains 15–20% Rolend. However, the same operator will be able to process 100kg of original containing 60-65 % of Rolend, or over 200 kg of original containing more than 85 % of Rolend (Petrovi and Leposavi , 2011).

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Processing procedure according to quality classes

- Sorting of raspberry Rolend.
- As it was mentioned earlier, the quality of the frozen raspberry is

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typically measured based on the proportion of Rolend in the total fruit mass, i.e in the original. Having been generated during the separation of the raw material at the gauging unit, the frozen Rolend raw material is poured onto the vibration sorting machine, where raspberries smaller than 12mm in diameter are separated, followed by separation of crushed raspberries and any impurities (branches, leaves and other).

Passing over the vibration sorting machine, the raspberry fruits fall to the moving inspection belt, transporting them to the next processing stages. The belt is physically divided into 2 or 3 sections. Whereas the middle section retains the first-class quality raspberry fruits which are sound and of a preserved shape. Other fruits with signs of damage – mechanical, insect-caused or disease-related – are separated onto the remaining 2 sections of the belt, and collected into special boxes.

Trading name for this type of raspberry product is raspberry block. The raspberry which is transported along the middle section of the belt is collected into polyethylene bags at the end of the belt. It represents the highest quality raspberry, called Rolend.

Gauging of Rolend. Over the recent decades, the market of

(18-20 mm)

450g 2.5 kg,

200g 300g,

Western Europe, and especially that of France, has developed standard requirements for a very narrow range of Rolend size.

Sizes within this narrow gauging range for Rolend (for example 18-20 mm) can be obtained only by using specially fitted pipe gauges for Rolend classification.

Packaging of raspberry Rolend. Raspberry Rolend is packed into polyethylene bags which are further laid into cardboard boxes. Most typically, the size of the polyethylene bags may range between 450g and 2.5 kg, depending on the customers' requirements. Rolend is also packed into smaller packages, such as boxes of between 200g and 300g, which is performed at special lines for small packages, which are supplied to the world's most exclusive markets.

Sorting of raspberry block. Raspberry block can be further processed into raspberry bruh and raspberry grit.

Raspberry bruh is in fact raspberry obtained from the bruh raw material, generated in the process of separating the Rolend raw material at the gauging machine. This raw material is cleaned by removing any fruits that are rotten or damaged by insects, irregularly shaped berries and impurities. The best-quality

70%

5%

30%

10 kg.

- bruh is the one including 70% of the whole fruits, 25% of crushed fruits and 5% of grit.

- Whole fruits in the bruh are the fruits with 30% mechanical damage. Raspberry bruh is packed into cardboard boxes with polyethylene bags, usually weighing 10 kg.

- Raspberry grit is obtained by grinding the sorted raw material for grit, generated in the process of separation of raw material at the gauging unit, or the so-called sorted block. The introduction of the laser-aided sorting of raspberry has made it possible to pulverise the compacted raspberry blocks in order to produce a certain quantity of grit.

- Pulverisation of raspberry is performed using a special line which consists of the following elements:

- screw elevator;
- pulverising mill;
- vibration sorting machine for separation of dust;
- inspection belt;
- elevator and air fan;
- desk with lighting;
- scales;
- non-powered roll beds (placed at the points of collecting raspberry into boxes);
- plastic bags welding device; and
- floor mats for standing operators.

3x20mm

8mm

Gauged raw material for grit or raspberry block is further sorted on the inspection belt, by removing mouldy parts of the fruit, as well as any impurities.

After the sorting in this phase, the grit or block raw material is re-frozen in the chamber, before being lifted by the means of an elevator to the pulverising machine, where a mechanical device crushes the raspberry into small particles, producing the raspberry grit.

Coming out of the grinding machine, the raspberry grit falls down onto the vibration sorting machine, consisting of three vibrating colanders. The first and the second colander are fitted with 3x20mm openings, which separate the raspberry dust, whereas the third colander with the perforation of 8mm separates the grit. Larger parts of raspberry passing over the third colander become separated before being re-frozen and pulverised at the raspberry pulveriser and finally returned for re-grinding. Passing through the third colander, the raspberry grit falls onto the inspection belts, for the final sorting. At the end of the conveyor belt, the grit is raised by the means of elevator, onto the air fan, which removes any remaining particles (leaves, hairs, larvae and similar) which are lighter than the raspberry grit grains and which have not been visually detected by the final inspection. At the very

- end of the process, the grit is packed into boxes with polyethylene bag, where it is compacted into even packages, usually weighing 10kg each.

10 kg.

Packed like this, the grit is stacked onto box pallets, before storing inside a chamber at the temperature of -20°C.

-20°C.

- It is necessary to note that grinding of raspberry into raspberry grit is performed at the temperature of between 0° and -5°C. Grinding raspberry at lower temperatures slows down the process of compressing the raspberry into blocks during storage. This can also be applied for Rolend and bruh raspberry, which become compacted during storing. By processing the raw material at lower temperatures and securing sufficient quantities of comfortable packaging, it is possible to slow down the process of compacting the goods in the storage chambers.

0° -5°C.

- Storage. Weighed and sealed boxes with finished products are passed through the metal detector. After passing through the metal detector, boxes with the finished products are stacked onto a clean and undamaged Euro-pallet, with a piece of cardboard inserted underneath and on the top of the finished pallet. Deep-frozen

-19 -21°C.

Rolend, grit, bruh and original are stored in the storage chamber, at the temperature of between -19 and -21°C. The frozen raspberry can remain stored for a period of up to two years, although in actual fact this period tends to be shorter, for financial reasons. The storage time is often restricted in order to prevent the finished goods from becoming stuck together due to prolonged storage at low temperatures.

800 x 1200 mm.

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'stretching'.

Delivery of finished goods. The first step in the delivery of finished goods is stacking the packed goods onto wooden Euro-pallets, 800x1200 mm. Stacked like this, the goods are wrapped using polyethylene (stretch) foil, whereas the whole operation at this stage is referred to as 'stretching'. Wrapped finished goods are transported by fork-lift and loaded in the cold storage truck. The temperature of the finished goods during loading onto the truck must not be higher than -18°C.

-18°C.

The cold storage truck is fitted with the system securing adequate low temperatures during transportation of raspberry. The temperature at the unloading must be the same at the loading.

The delivery of the finished goods marks the end of the processing phase for frozen raspberry.

(Rolend - . . .)

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CONCLUSIONS

Quality of the frozen raspberry is measured based on the share of Rolend in the total quantity, i.e. total mass of original fruit. By advancing the process and reducing the number of required operations in the course of the technological method of raspberry processing, application of freezing enables an increased share of Rolend compared to other classes of frozen raspberry (grit, block, bruh), which are offered at a lower price in the global market.

In addition to this, by advancing the existing and introducing new processing equipment to the methodology of freezing and processing, it is possible to significantly reduce the costs of labour for selection, which represent considerable part of the overall structure of costs.

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State and perspectives of pear production in Bulgaria

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SUMMARY

Natural and climatic conditions in our country are suitable for expanding the production of pears.

During the studied period (2001-2015) the areas occupied with pear plantations steadily increased from 152 ha in 2006 to 528 ha in 2015.

The production of pear fruit also increased from 750 t in 2005 to 2953 t in 2015.

Received average yields are strong below the biological capabilities of pear varieties and vary from 2688 kg/ha to 6422 kg/ha in 2013.

The recent trend in the application of high yielded varieties and advanced technology for fruit production, leading to higher yields and quality.

Key words: pear, production, varieties

INTRODUCTION

Pear fruit is economically valuable fruit species with traditions in production in the country. Biological and economical characteristics allow it to take a leading position in our country. It is

(2001-2015 .)

152 ha 2006 . 528 ha 2015 .

2005 . 2953 t 2015 . 750 t

2688 kg/ha 6422 kg/ha 2013 .

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characterize by high productive capacity and varieties with different ripening period. Valuable nutritional, medicinal and dietary qualities make it a desirable fruit, both domestic and external markets.

Over the past 50 years have seen a decline in production, despite the presence of favorable soil and climatic conditions suitable for growing pears in our country (Gandev et al., 2014).

The problems facing pear production in the country are many and require hard work to restore production and improving production quality as intended aim of the present study.

2001-2015, (ha), (kg/ha) (t), (Milanov, 2009; Gandev et al., 2014).

The collected data from the Department of Agricultural Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the FAO, were statistically processed and indicates the status of pear production in Bulgaria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A detailed analysis of pear production in Bulgaria was made by regions for the period 2001-2015 in order to characterize the most suitable areas for growing pear culture in Bulgaria, using the harvested area (ha), average yield (kg/ha) and production of pear fruit (t), (Milanov, 2009; Gandev et al., 2014).

The collected data from the Department of Agricultural Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the FAO, were statistically processed and indicates the status of pear production in Bulgaria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1965 ., 14665 ha, . . 1939 . 31 (461 ha), , 152 ha 2006 ., 2015 . (528 ha 1).

Areas of pears in our country increased continuously until 1965, when they reached 14665 ha, i.e. increase compared to those in 1939 by 31 times (461 ha), and then gradually decreased to 152 ha in 2006, and increased to 528 ha in 2015 (Table 1).

/ Regions	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Northwest	29	22	23	23	16	9	9	12	12	27	18	16	31	5	15
North center	11	15	36	38	18	17	18	24	30	48	53	44	67	46	62
Northeast	34	10	54	49	26	27	72	23	20	54	55	53	61	34	72
Southeast	68	11	33	33	15	14	81	31	59	119	72	106	52	48	60
Southwest	77	121	152	47	48	38	82	103	103	114	130	106	117	103	117
South center	105	86	60	146	82	47	50	60	100	184	141	117	125	100	202
/ Bulgaria	324	265	358	336	205	152	312	253	324	546	469	442	453	336	528

, 50 % - , - , - . (, 2003). - (, 1976). - ; - ;

Pear plantations are not as concentrated as apples, yet over 50 % of them are in Plovdiv, Kyustendil, Pazadzhik, Burgas and Varna regions. Varietals structure is represented mainly by Williams, Cure, Abb te Fettel and Beurre D'Hardenpont (Domozetov et al., 2003).

Fruit production in pear dangerously reduced (Iliev et a.l, 1976). The state of pear production is extremely unsatisfactory. The reasons for this are:

- very low care for cultivation of plantations;
- very bad age structure of plantations because lately weren't created new plantations (Gandev

(, 2014);

1996; 2013; 2009; Hrotko, 2013; Gandev et al., 2014).

2006 . (572 t), 2015 . (2953 t), (2).

et al., 2014).

- mass attack of plantations of *Psylla pyri*, which sharply reduced the productive capacity of the plantations.

Without serious measures to produce healthy planting material free from diseases, accelerated creation of new intensive plantations and improve support for existing can't change the unsatisfactory situation of pear production in the country (Gandev, 1996; Milanov, 2009; Hrotko, 2013; Gandev et al., 2014).

During the study the smallest pear production was obtained in 2006 (572 t), and highest in 2015 (2953 t), (Table 2).

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2001-2015 . (t)

Table 2. Production of pear fruits for the period 2001-2015 (t)

/ Regions	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Northwest	59	41	85	114	58	54	48	52	53	59	83	33	212	19	46
North center	21	9	87	181	16	58	57	58	101	86	216	102	346	133	492
Northeast	210	18	138	181	57	48	219	113	39	97	106	171	319	290	406
Southeast	50	37	30	112	59	53	254	91	215	648	298	254	206	297	351
Southwest	610	682	634	904	244	120	182	500	504	368	603	393	821	591	401
South center	113	294	61	303	316	239	205	110	530	210	668	411	1005	822	1257
/ Bulgaria	1063	1081	1035	1795	750	572	965	924	1442	1468	1974	1364	2909	2152	2953

- This increase of production attach to improving agrotechnics in existing plantations as (fertilization, cultivation, irrigation, pruning and plant protection). The share of young pear trees created under a new scheme of planting and included new, more yielding and

resistant to diseases and pests varieties began to increase.

The received pear production by region shows that the lowest is in the North center region in 2002 (9 t), and most of (1257 t) in 2015 in the South center region. All this shows that our country has the most favorable natural and climatic conditions for the production of pear production along the rivers Maritsa, Struma followed by Kamchiya and Ogosta.

The highest average yields of fruit, pear culture in Bulgaria for the period 2001-2015, were received in 2013 (6422 kg/ha), and the lowest in 2010 (2688 kg/ha), (Table 3).

3. 2001-2015 . (kg/h)
Table 3. Pear average yield for the period 2001-2015 (kg/h)

/ Regions	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Northwest	2026	1333	3647	4972	3615	6025	5202	4406	4484	2174	4882	2110	6839	3800	3067
North center	1872	417	2443	4812	871	3436	3273	2469	3372	1800	4043	2290	5164	2891	7935
Northeast	6147	1295	2565	3651	2166	1737	3031	4885	1975	1782	1909	3250	5230	8529	5639
Southeast	736	2709	895	3394	3790	3880	3146	2963	3637	5471	4143	2410	3962	6188	5850
Southwest	7935	5042	4180	6173	5056	3174	2224	4835	4888	3217	4640	3700	7017	5738	3427
South center	1075	3226	1015	6480	3839	5094	4083	1809	5324	1134	4726	3510	8040	8220	6223
/ Bulgaria	3281	3541	2892	5338	3630	3765	3096	3661	4461	2688	4208	3090	6422	6405	5593

., 1976;

(., 2014).

It gives the impression that these average yields are far below the biological capabilities of pear culture in Bulgaria (Iliev et al., 1976; Gandev et al., 2014). It was found that the annual climatic conditions have had a significant impact on average yields of fruits and the

kg/ha),
 2002 . (417
 2014 .
 (8529 kg/ha).

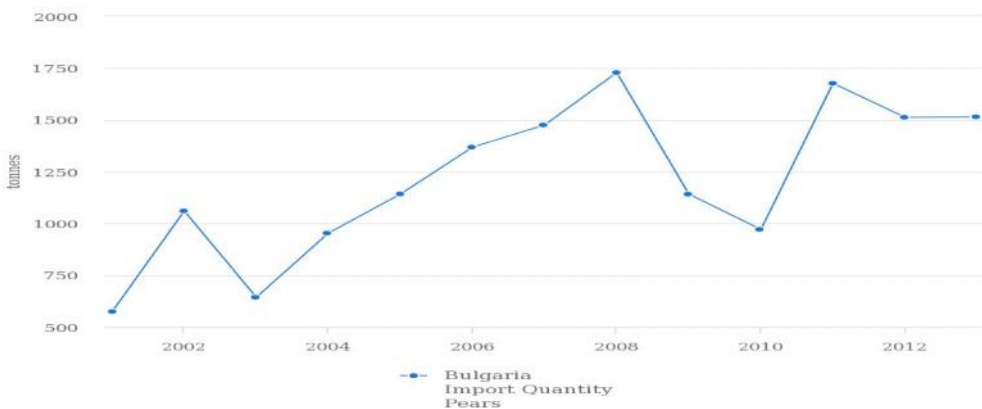
- received production.

Depending on the region the lowest average yields of fruits are produced in the North center in 2002 (417 kg/ha), and the highest in 2014 in the Northeast (8529 kg/ha).

In conclusion it can be said that the area, received production and average yields of pear fruits in Bulgaria are insufficient to meet the needs of our population. In support of what appear next two figures concerning the import and export of pear production in Bulgaria.

(1)
 1992 . – 9 t,
 2008 . – 1729 t,
 2013 . 1515 t.

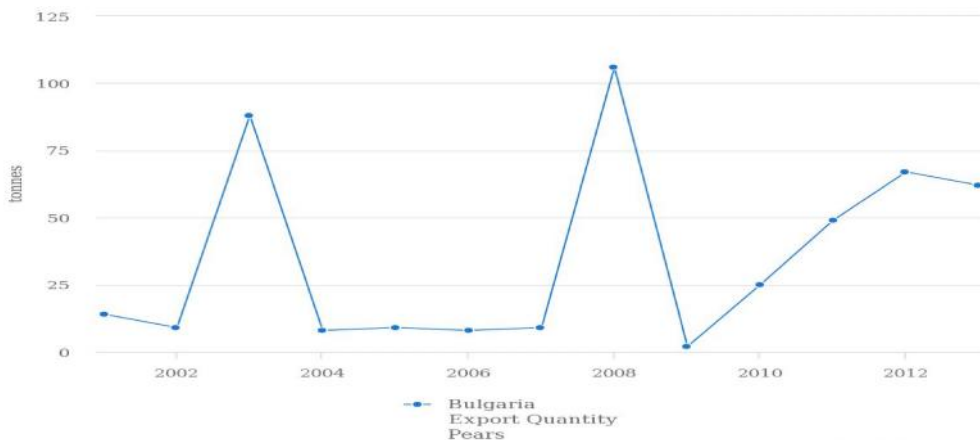
Imports of pear fruit in our country (Figure 1) started in 1992 – 9 t, reaches its maximum in 2008 – 1729 t, while in 2013 to 1515 t. By reducing the pear areas in the country increases imports because pear is a desirable fruit of the internal market.



Source: FAOSTAT (Dec 20, 2016)

Fig. 1. Import of pear fruits for the period 2001-2013 (t)

t, - Of our country exported the highest amount pear fruit in 1975 - 8012 t, and at least 2 t in 2009 and 2013 was 62 t (Figure 2).



2. 2001-2013 (t)
 Fig. 2. Export of pear fruits for the period 2001-2013 (t)

- These facts speak for unmet needs of our consumers from pear fruit. Therefore, the area with pear trees should be increased. In parallel, to improve agrotechnics in existing plants and in new to introduce more yielding and resistant to diseases and pests varieties.

- Then retail prices of pear fruit, ranging from 1.50 to 3.50 lev will be reduced.

CONCLUSIONS

- During the study period (2001-2015) the areas occupied with pear plantations steadily increased from 152 ha in 2006 to 528 ha in 2015.

750 t 2005 . 2953 t 2015 .
 -
 2010 . 6422 kg/ha 2013 .
 2688 kg/ha
 ;
 -
 - , - ; ,
 - ;
 - , ;
 - , (;
 - .);
 - ;
 - , ;
 - ;
 - ;
 - , ;
 - , ;

The production of pear fruit also increased from 750 t in 2005 to 2953 t in 2015.

Received average yields are well below the biological capabilities of pear varieties and ranges from 2688 kg/ha in 2010 to 6422 kg/ha in 2013.

To extend the pear production in the country should solve the following tasks:

- In the production of pear fruit to introduce new, more early yielding more fruitful, better quality varieties;
- To create a new specialized, intensive pear plantings that provide regular and high yields;
- Reduce unproductive period, using a dwarf rootstocks (quince rootstocks etc.).
- Use certified planting material to create new plantations;
- Introduction of new schemes of planting and pruning of pear trees;
- To improve water-fertigation and mechanize production processes in the plantations to increase productivity and reduce production costs;
- To extend the consumption of fruit fresh by storing in cold stores and processed in a different manufacturers;
- Contemporary, modern and specialized pear production is

based on pear trees created rich soil;

- To conduct effective protection of plants against scab, pear flea and input in the production of varieties resistant and tolerant to fire blight.

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Old local apple varieties from Kyustendil region

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SUMMARY

Kyustendil is the oldest apple production area in Bulgaria, including a large number of habitats along the Struma River and its tributaries. A significant number of old local varieties originated there, the greatest economic importance has - Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka, Tetovka, Kandile and Yamborka. Vigorous in growth are Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Kandile, very good yielding are varieties Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka, Tetovka and Yamborka. With best storage are Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka, Tetovka, Kandile and Yamborka. Most susceptible to apple scab are Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Kandile. Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Tetovka can be grown in production plantations.

Key words: apple, old local varieties, Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka, Tetovka, Kandile, Yamborka

INTRODUCTION

Big interest and large distribution apple due to its valuable economic and biological characteristics – big yielding, large

<p>fruit with high nutritional properties;</p> <p>demand on the market in fresh and processed form; high economic efficiency, good transportability (Iliev and Penev, 1964; Mitov et al., 1996).</p> <p>Apple varieties differ according to ripening period (from mid-July to late October), which provides the market with fresh fruits over a substantial period of the year (Gyrnevski et al., 1986; Dzhuvinov et al., 2008; Apostolova et al., 2012). Good storage of winter apple varieties allows the consumption of fresh fruit till early spring (Iliev et al., 1984).</p> <p>Large number of local Kyustendil's varieties (Kandile, Skrinyanka, Buhavitsa etc.) originated from southern varieties of forest apple and represents new specie <i>Malus orientalis</i> Uglilz. Varieties of <i>M. orientalis</i> require a longer and warmer growing season, but differ in their resistance to prolonged and extreme heat, atmosphere drought and cold weather. Some of them (Kandile) exhibits sufficient longevity and productivity in hot habitats. The same group of varieties exhibit unequal excitability to growth in forced dormancy and different resistance to turning colds.</p> <p>There were very large number of crosses between</p>	<p>fruit with high nutritional properties;</p> <p>demand on the market in fresh and processed form; high economic efficiency, good transportability (Iliev and Penev, 1964; Mitov et al., 1996).</p> <p>Apple varieties differ according to ripening period (from mid-July to late October), which provides the market with fresh fruits over a substantial period of the year (Gyrnevski et al., 1986; Dzhuvinov et al., 2008; Apostolova et al., 2012). Good storage of winter apple varieties allows the consumption of fresh fruit till early spring (Iliev et al., 1984).</p> <p>Large number of local Kyustendil's varieties (Kandile, Skrinyanka, Buhavitsa etc.) originated from southern varieties of forest apple and represents new specie <i>Malus orientalis</i> Uglilz. Varieties of <i>M. orientalis</i> require a longer and warmer growing season, but differ in their resistance to prolonged and extreme heat, atmosphere drought and cold weather. Some of them (Kandile) exhibits sufficient longevity and productivity in hot habitats. The same group of varieties exhibit unequal excitability to growth in forced dormancy and different resistance to turning colds.</p> <p>There were very large number of crosses between</p>
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(*M. orientalis*)

ú (, 1947;
2007).

varieties of southern forest apple varieties (*M. orientalis*) and weakly and strongly growing varieties of early apple varieties. Formed new varieties differ significantly on qualities of the fruits, requirements of heat and referral to heat and referrals their habitats with

- prolonged heat and drought
- weather in summer and warming in late winter (Tetovka) tolerated satisfactorily heat and atmosphere droughts.

The oldest and famous apple region is Kyustendil. It includes a significant number of habitats along the river Struma and its tributaries (Boykov, 1947; Stancheva, 2007). Ecological conditions of these habitats are not equally favorable for growing apple.

- For example, under the same care for the garden trees of all apple varieties in relatively lower habitats (villages Shishkovtsi, Kopilovtsi, Nikolichevtsi etc.) exhibited less longevity and give smaller yields with lower quality, because there are a longer warming at the end of winter, turning frosts in early spring and strong atmospheric heat and drought in summer.

- Favorable conditions for apple are higher habitats around the foothill chains Osogovo, Konyavska mountains and the upper stream of

the river Dragovishtitsa (Stancheva, 2007).

The aim of this study is exploring the preserved old local forms of Kyustendil region and opportunities for their distribution.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this study were used the Methodology for studing of plant resources in fruit plants (Nedev et al, 1979), updated with the indicators of UPOV (2005).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Buhavitsa (Red buhavitsa)

Local variety originated probably from Kyustendil. It is assumed that originated as a bud mutation of Skrinyanka (Stoichkov et al., 1958). The two varieties are very much alike in many places don't distinguish them.

The fruits are medium-sized, 64 mm high, 73 mm width and weight 130 g fairly equally in size. They are equally in shape, flattened or flattened rounded to high rounded, usually asymmetrical (Fugure 1).

Light greenish to yellowish-green base color and bright red blush on the sunny side, which sometimes covers the whole fruit; observed a few small points, rusty, whitish halo; there subcutaneous whitish dots that are most to stem

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side and noticed very difficult.

The skin is almost thin, smooth, greasy, shiny, tough.



1. -
Fig. 1. Buhavitsa – fruits

- Fruit flesh is whitish, firm,
, coarse texture, juicy, with a nice
, refreshing acid with a specific
- flavor, good quality.

- The fruits acquire harvesting
maturity in the first half of
September. When approaching it
they begin to fall off.

Transportability is good.

- Consumptive maturity fruits
acquired at the end of November.
Store the end of March and form a
subcutaneous spots.

50-60 - The tree has a vigorous
growth, reached large size and
features great vitality, reaching 50-
60 years or more. Forming a
broad, thin crown and slightly

(2).

- sagging (Figure 2). The bark of the trunk and thick branches cracked, reddish, the color of the bark of the main branches – reddish-brown from the sunny side greenish-gray from shadowed side. The shoots are reddish.

The leaves are very large, which is an distinctive character of the variety, oval-shaped on the shoots and mostly ovoid back and rarely oval in the shorter fruiting branches, roughly double serrated, dark green, with an average hair on the underside of the leaf.

The flowers are large, white with pink spots or pass, pink white. The variety is medium blooming.



Fig. 2. Buhavitsa - tree

Variety is bad pollinator. In the 6-8th fruiting enters at 6-8th year after

kg/
700-800

400-500

ú

ú

planting, and has good fertility. Yield ranges 400-500 kg/tree, and too often – by 700-800 kg and over.

Its cold resistance is good. Fruits and leaves are quite susceptible to scab. Infested fruits of scab often crack.

Distinctive characteristics of Skrinyanka. In habitus of the tree and leaves no difference between Buhavitsa and Skrinyanka. There is a difference only in the fruit which consists in the fact that the fruits of Buhavitsa are larger, more unequal in size, their red blush color is lighter, with a white and a less coarse texture. During storage it often gain subcutaneous spots. The fruits of Skrinyanka are smaller, with a darker blush color and more greenish and rough flesh-meat. They suffer less from hypodermic bitter spots.

Skrinyanka

Local apple cultivar of unknown origin. It is assumed that it comes from with. Skrinyano, Kyustendil, where received its name (Stoichkov et al., 1958).

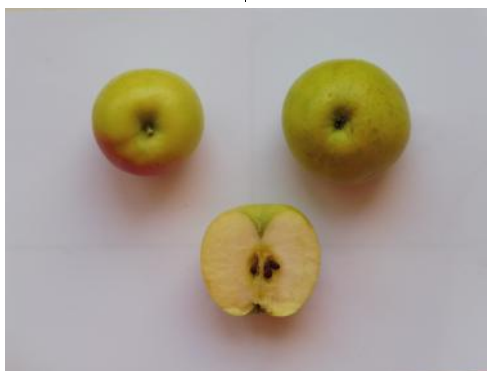
The fruits are medium-sized, with high of 47 to 64 mm, wider by 57 to 75 mm and heavy average 100 g, and equal in size, the fruits are fairly evenly equal in shape, oval, barely noticeable ribbed (Fugure 3).

(., 1958).

57 47 64 mm,
75 mm
100 g,

(3).

- Fruit skin is thick, smooth,
- tough, greasy, greenish based
- color with blurred dark red and
- darker red stripes blush color;
- ; almost whole the fruit is covered
- with a blush red color giving it a
- beautiful appearance. Subcutane-
- ous spots are scattered around the
- fruit, large, relatively well
- noticeable.



3. -
Fig. 3. Skrinyanka – fruits

- The fruit flesh is greenish or
- greenish hue with green strands,
- firm, coarse texture, juicy, sweet,
- wine-acid, no aroma or with a
- specific aroma, good quality.
- ;
- The fruits acquire harvest
- maturity in the first half of
- September. Then they easily fall
- out.
- Characterized by good
- transportability.
- Consumptive maturity fruits
- acquired at the end of November.
- Store the end of March - beginning
- of April. During storage in ordinary
- fruit-stores give a small
- percentage of wastage 4, but

4,

10 m

12 m

17 m

(4).

- relatively large percentage rotten fruit.

The fruits of Skrinyanka are good for use in fresh and drying.

- Tree of Skrinyanka is growing wildly. Fruit-bearing age grow up to 10 m width and 10 m high, additional cases – 12 m tall and 17 m wide. The crown is rounded, a rare, well lightened and well-developed central skeletal branch (leader) (Figure 4). The bark of the trunk and thick branches cracked, red, the color of the bark of the other branches is reddish from the sunlit side and greenish-grey from the shady side. Shoots have a reddish color, medium thickness, medium length internodes and are quite hairy.



4. –
Fig. 4. Skrinyanka – tree

6-8

ú

The flowers are large, white with pink spots or gradually flowing pink color in white. Blossoms is average.

Skrinyanka is bad pollinator. In the fruiting enters at 6-8 year after planting, and has good yielding. Its cold resistance is good. As fruits and leaves are very susceptible to scab.

Infested fruits of scab often crack.

Tetovka

Local variety of unknown origin (Stoichkov et al., 1958).

Fruits are large or medium-sized, 42 to 59 mm high, 59 to 86 mm width, weight 100 to 200 g depending on external conditions and agrotechnics of growing, fairly equal in size (Figure 5).

mm,

59 42 59
86 mm
100 200 g

(5).



5. -
Fig. 5. Tetovka – fruits

Flat rounded and rarely rounded cone-shape of fruit, with obliquely truncated peak, often with very little issued very broad

ribs; fruits are aligned in shape.

With a thin, smooth, slightly greasy, shiny skin with chartreuse basic color at harvest maturity and yellowish at consumer maturity, covered in large part or even entirely blurred marbled or strips of red color; in areas with high sea level blush color covers less part of than in the regions is lower above sea level; skin is covered with a coating.

The flesh is whitish with a greenish blush, which progresses consumer maturity disappears, medium firm, tender, juicy, and juiciness in storage after January decreased slightly sour, with no or very light aroma; taste of poorly ripened fruits are satisfactory, and ripe – good.

Harvest maturity fruits acquired usually by the middle of September and in the lower areas– at the end of September and in early October. The fruits ripen simultaneously and have good transportability.

Consumers mature fruits turn at the end of November and early December. Storage usually endure to the end of March as retain its fresh appearance and not fade. During storage the fruit rot brown and soft rot.

Tree at a young age is a fast

growing, then has a moderate to weak growth. Growth weakened significantly when tree start fruit-bearing, while poor agrotechnics in older trees almost stopped. Reaching medium large, tending to even small size (4-6 m tall and 7-9 m width) (Figure 6).

7-9 m (4-6 m) (6).

4-6

growing, then has a moderate to weak growth. Growth weakened significantly when tree start fruit-bearing, while poor agrotechnics in older trees almost stopped. Reaching medium large, tending to even small size (4-6 m tall and 7-9 m width) (Figure 6).

The color of the bark of the stem for the most part is gray, grizzled with brownish-red spots. The shoots are thick, with a reddish color, strong haired, with numerous small spots.

Tetovka bloom earlier. The duration of flowering is 4-6 days. The flowers are large, largely pink. It is characteristic that the stigma is longer than the stamens.



6.
Fig. 6. Tetovka – tree

4-5

kg

300

ú

Tetovka has viral pollen with very good germination and it is a good pollinator. Good pollinators are Tetovka Golden Winter Pearmain, Landsberger Reinette, Bellefleur Yellow and Golden Delicious. Early fruiting age - usually a 4-5 year after planting.

There are very good to abundant fertility and a tendency to almost regularly fruiting. Average tree in full fruiting produce about 300 kg of fruit, while good farming practices and yields are twice as large. Its cold resistance as compared to winter frost and cold of turning good. The sensitivity of the variety to diseases and pests is simple. More susceptible to scab are the leaves. Keep well on the tree in the wind.

In areas with hot summers and less atmospheric humidity in the fruit appears sunburn. Due to weaker growth strength of the wood, its great fertility and its tendency to annually fruiting trees grow old Tetovka preliminary when not held timely irrigation and fertilization.

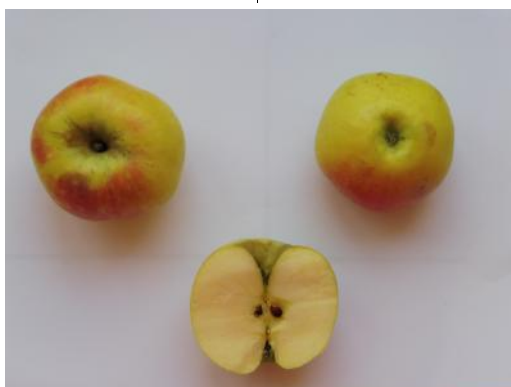
Kandile

Names and synonyms: Tetovka (Macedonia and Albania), White kandile Kyustendil, Kyustendil white kandile, White kandile, Tetovka, Bosnian. In the last two synonym is known among some growers in Plovdiv and Asenovgrad (Stoichkov et al., 1958).

(, 1958).
 48 79 mm,
 60 90 mm ;
 125 g,
 (7).

The fruits are medium to large-sized, high 48 to 79 mm, wide 60 to 90 mm and light; the average weight was about 125 g, equal in size (Figure 7).

Circular cone shape, sometimes flat cone, the widest in the peduncle half; fruits bent to the receptacle; ribbed quite weak, more noticeable to the receptacle; shaped fruits are almost symmetrical or with a slight asymmetry between the two halves, equal.



. 7. -
Fig. 7. Kandile – fruit

Thick, rough, tough, greasy, with a strong wax coating films that touch upon leaving traces on the fingers; when fruits are at harvest maturity, the main color is pale green, while consumers' maturity turns to yellow-green to pale yellow; blush color of the fruit is pink-carmine to carmine-red; in all the skin are dispersed evenly to gray-rusty whitish spots, which are located in densely receptacle quarter; the fruit is very beautiful.

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(8).
5 8
9-11
20
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The flesh is white, soft, sponge, soft, not enough juicy, sweet, without aroma; taste qualities mediocre; looked from more unpretentious consumers and eastern markets.

The fruits tunes harvesting maturity in October.

Transportability is not good.

Consumers mature fruits harvested in November and stored until April. Storage gives little wastage from light-fruit and rot.

The fruits are used for eating fresh and for drying. Tree has a vigorous growth. It reaches a height of 8-9 m and forms characteristic round crown. The bark of the trunk and skeletal branches is gray, and the thinner branches – grey-greenish. The shoots are medium thick, light brown, with few and small spots, hairy (Fugure 8).

Flowers are white, medium-sized. Blooms later, 5 to 8 days after early flowering varieties. It held a large number of fruit set. The variety is a good pollinator.

Infancy tree on vigorous rootstock passes slowly for 9-11 years, and in some cases even up to 20 years. The variety is susceptible to scab, which suffer mainly leaves. Grown on a seed rootstock (Kiselitsa), develops powerful trees fruiting thoroughly, but show greater tendency to

25-30

700-800 kg

– 1500 kg.

- alternate fruiting. Well-developed adult trees to 25-30 years of age with better viewing in favorable years give 700-800 kg fruit, and individual trees – and more than 1500 kg.



8.
Fig. 8. Kandile – tree

- To the habitat conditions this variety is not very demanding, but grows well and gives high yields of protected areas, rich, deep alluvial soils vlogoemni irrigation and sufficient atmospheric moisture.

Yamborka

- Output seedling is from Yamborano, Kyustendil (Stoichkov et al., 1958).

- The fruits are medium large, high among the 49 mm, wide

., 1958).

49 mm,

60 mm
 80 g,

average of 60 mm and a heavy average 80 g, equal in size. Rounded conical, sometimes ovoid; fruits are symmetrical, relatively well aligned in shape (Figure 9).

With thin, feels slightly with consumption, smooth skin with a yellow base color, but on the sunny side with fuzzy carmine red, shiny, very greasy during storage, with whitish spots.

The fruit flesh is snow white, crispy, slight coarse texture, very juicy, nice, with a mild flavor, refreshing, sweet-sour; good quality, good transportability.

Harvest maturity occurs in mid-September.

The fruits are kept well until March in ordinary fruit-stores. Under these conditions, they become consumers' maturity in November and retain its taste qualities to end storage. During storage rot of soft rot.



Fig. 9. Yamborka – fruit

The tree is vigorous, with dense crown at a young age and fruit-bearing age crown is rounded and not too thick because the branches are strongly tilted away from the fruit load (Figure 10).

(10).



9. –
Fig. 9. Yamborka – tree

The flowers are white, medium size. Yamborka blooms with an average flowering apple varieties. The average duration of flowering was 8 days. The variety equal, with good germination of the pollen, and it is a good pollinator. Tree assume the fruiting after 6 years of age. The variety can be propagated by root cuttings (Soichkov et al., 1958).

(, 1958).

Yamborka does not show

- particular sensitivity to scab under
- irrigation, however, shows little
- sensitivity to powdery mildew.

CONCLUSIONS

- Variety Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Tetovka deserve to be spread in production plantations in habitats with good atmospheric moisture and deep drained soils.

- Variety Kandile and Yamborka are suitable for amateur cultivation with sufficient atmospheric moisture and irrigation, rich soils and protected areas.

- Vigorous growth has Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Kandile.

With very good and high yielding are characterized varieties Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka, Tetovka and Yamborka.

With very good and good storage quality of fruits are Buhavitsa, Tetovka, Kandile and Yamborka.

- With good transportability are Buhavitsa and Skrinyanka.

With attractive fruits are Skrinyanka, Tetovka and Kandile.

- Buhavitsa and Skrinyanka let to preliminary dropping of fruit in low soil moisture.

- Susceptible to scab are Buhavitsa, Skrinyanka and Kandile.

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