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Breeding of rare fruit crops in Ukraine

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SUMMARY

The natural conditions of Ukraine allow to cultivate many fruit plants. In addition to traditional fruit crops the registration of cultivars of new fruits began in the second half of the 20th century. Above one hundred and a half cultivars of rare fruit crops of Ukrainian breeding have been included to the State Register of Plant Varieties of Ukraine. They belong to pome fruits (hawthorn, Japanese quince, and quince), stone fruits (Crimean myrobalan, myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids, cornelian cherry, cranberry bush, jujuba, nectarine, and olive), small fruit crops (blackberry, blueberry, blue honeysuckle, magnolia wine, feijoa, fig, hardy kiwi, mulberry, pawpaw, persimmon, pomegranate, sea buckthorn), and nuts (almond and filbert). Score rootstocks of Ukrainian breeding have been registered too.

Key words: horticulture, plant breeding, rare fruits

INTRODUCTION

The development of plant industry, including horticulture, particularly depends on the introduction of new plants. Blueberry, honeysuckle, kiwifruit, sea buckthorn and other fruit plants were

- introduced last century. The varieties of these plants have gained commercial importance around the world. Cultivation of new plant species provides stability of agricultural production, increases productivity, reduces material and energy consumption, and healthier environment.
- The new raw material base for various manufacturing industries is expanding and the diversity of products is increasing.
- Growing of crops with a high content of bioactive substances improves the quality and nutritional value of both consumed fresh fruit and processed products, promotes a healthier nation.
- New fruit crops often fully meet the requirements of organic production that enables the development of organic horticulture. The success of orchard culture largely depends on the cultivars, so creating new rare fruit crops cultivars promote development of the commercial and amateur horticulture.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The traditional set of fruit crops of Ukraine was formed in the 17th century. These are apples, pears, plums, apricots, peaches, sour and sweet cherries, grapes, strawberries, black and red currants, gooseberries, and walnuts. These crops were included to the first zoned national assortments in the first half of the 20th century (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2015). Zoning of fruit plants, called rare fruit crops began in the second half of the 20th century.

Under name "rare fruit crop" we mean cultivated fruit plants that are zoned and registered in the State Register only after the middle of the 20th century, that is a demarcation point between them and traditional fruit crops.

Over the last decade varieties of almond, blackberry, blue honeysuckle, blueberry, cornelian cherry, cranberry bush, cinnamon rose, hazel, fig, hardy kiwi, hawthorn, Japanese quince, jujube, kiwifruit, magnolia vine, mulberry, nectarine, olive, pawpaw, persimmon, pomegranate, quince, and sea buckthorn were registered in the State Register of Plant Varieties of Ukraine (hereinafter referred as State Register) (The regionalized..., 1991; The register..., 2001; State..., 2005; 2016). In Ukraine barberry, black apricot, black raspberry, chokeberry, golden currant, goumi, Manchu cherry, rowan, service berry, medlar and other fruit plants are also grown (Andriienko, 1991; Mezhen'skyj et al., 2012; 2014; Mezhen'skyj and Mezhen'ska, 2015).

In Ukraine there are about 1.000 species of fruit plants, among them more than 3/4 are introduced. 110 species and interspecific hybrids are economically important (Mezhen'skyj, 2008). The National collections of plant genetic resources contain 21.200 accessions of fruit crops, including 14.800 cultivars, and among them there are 4.500 of Ukrainian breeding (Riabchun and Bohyslav'skyi, 2007). All fruit crops can be divided into four groups: pome fruit crops, stone fruit crops, small fruit crops and nut crops (Mezhen'skyj, 2011).

Both widespread and unusual fruit crops in Ukraine are given in Table 1. Each rare fruit crop occupies less than 1% of the total area of fruit plantations in Ukraine.

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Table 1. Fruit crops in Ukraine

1.

Pome fruits	Stone fruits	Berry crops	Nut crops
/ Traditional fruit crops			
/ Apple	Apricot	Black current	Persian Walnut
Pear	Peach	Gooseberry	
	/ Prune	/ Grape	
	Sour cherry & Duke	Raspberry	
	Sweet cherry	Red current	
		/ Strawberry	
1950 Fruit crops and rootstocks whose varieties have been registered since 1950			
Hawthorn	Cranberry bush	Blackberry	Almond
Japanese Quince	Cornelian cherry	Blue honeysuckle	Filbert
Quince	& Japanese plum / Crimean myrobalan & myrobalan- Japanese plum hybrids	Blueberry	
Pome Crop Rootstocks	Jujube	Cinnamon Rose	
	Nectarine	Feijoa	
	/ Olive	/ Fig	
	Stone crop rootstocks	Hardy kiwi	
		/ Kiwifruit	
		/ Lemon	
		Magnolia vine	
		/ Mulberry	
		/ Pawpaw	
		Persimmon	
		/ Pomegranate	
		/Sea buckthorn	
		Grapevine rootstocks	
Bred fruit plants whose varieties haven't been registered yet			
Checker tree	/ Chokecherry	& Barberry & Mahonia	Pecan
Chokeberry	Bessey cherry	Buffalo berry	Turkish filbert
Medlar	Elder	Cudrang	
Nashi	Manchu cherry	Goji	
Rowan	Plumcot	Golden current	
/ Serviceberry		/ Goumi	
/ Service tree		/Passionflower	
/ Whitebeam			

1812 (Klimenko et al., 2012), 30, 392, 1004 (Smykov, 2010).
Cydonia oblonga Mill.,
 " [1962]¹, " (1982),
 " [1981], " [2001], " [2010]
 " [2010]
 " " " " "

The famous Nikita Botanical Garden, founded in 1812, significantly contributes to the development of the world and Ukrainian horticulture. The breeding work with many fruit crops initiated by the second director Nikolai von Hartwiß (Klimenko et al., 2012) is of great success, especially over the last century. In the assortment of Ukraine, the varieties of quinces, myrobalans, pomegranates, jujubes, nectarines, and persimmons of Nikita Botanical Garden breeding occupy leading positions. Due to subtropical climate, the southern Crimean coast, where the botanical garden is located, is a unique place for research on subtropical fruit plants. Registered varieties of figs, olives, almonds are created exclusively in this establishment. The gene pool of rare fruit crops of Southern Fruit Crop Department has 30 species, 392 varieties of Nikita Botanical Garden breeding, 1004 introduced varieties, and 1902 elite forms (Smykov, 2010). Also a significant foundation stone hybrid crops, including interspecific hybrids, are studied.

The natural habitat of quince, *Cydonia oblonga* Mill., is the Caucasus and North-Western Iran areas, adjacent to the Caspian Sea where quince was domesticated. Afterwards in the Crimea and the Trans-Dniester the secondary diversity centres of quince were developed. There are 13 registered quince cultivars of Ukrainian breeding. In Nikita Botanical Garden 'Obilna' [1962]², 'Krymska Aromatna' [1981], 'Krymska Rannia' [1982], 'Myr' [1981], 'Siedobna' [2001], 'Skazochna' [2001], 'Novorichna' [2010], and 'Oktiabrina' [2010] were selected from local population and free pollination progeny of 'Anger', 'Beretzki', 'Constantinopol', 'Meech's Prolific', and

1

² Numbers after cultivar name s in square brackets stand for the year of registration of this variety.

"Meech's Prolific" " " -
 " " " " -
 " " " " (Kopan, 1999). -
 , *Prunus cerasifera* Ehrh., -
 . *P.* -
 , *erasifera* subsp. *macrocarpa* Eremin & var. -
 Garkovenko, var. *macrocarpa* var. *taurica* Eremin & Garkovenko -
 var. *macrocarpa* var. *taurica* (Eryomin and Garkovenko, 1989). -
 " " " " -
 (Kostina, 1946a) -
 1954 . var. *macrocarpa*, " " [1962], " " [1962] -
 " " [1978]., var. *taurica* -
 " " [1969] " " [1979]. -
 (Kostina, 1946b) -
 " " " " "Burbank" -
 1969 . -
 " [1995], " " [2010], -
 " " [2010], " " [2010] -
 " " [2012] -
 , *Prunus* -
persica [L.] Batsch var. *nucipersica* [L.] Batsch var. *nucipersica* [Suckow]

'Portugal'. It is need to mention 'Krymska Aromatna' with its fruits suitable for fresh consumption, and self-fertile 'Myr' and 'Krymska Rannia' (Kopan, 1999).

In the Trans-Dniester and the Crimea myrobalan, *Prunus cerasifera* Ehrh., has been cultivated for food at least since ancient times. A specific myrobalan assortment belonging to *P. cerasifera* subsp. *macrocarpa* Eremin & Garkovenko. with two varieties var. *macrocarpa* and var. *taurica* Eremin & Garkovenko has been formed in the Crimea. Fruit of var. *macrocarpa* is clingstone, and fruit of var. *taurica* is freestone (Eryomin and Garkovenko, 1989). The first registered cultivars 'Nikitska Zhovta' and 'Pionerka' were selected from local varieties (Kostina, 1946a) and zoned in 1954. During the following decades other cultivars of var. *macrocarpa* namely 'Kyzyltashska Rannia' [1962], 'Purpurova' [1962], and 'Krasavytsia' [1978], were zoned as well as var. *taurica* 'Liusha Vyshneva' [1969], and 'Vasylivska' [1979].

The best selects of Crimean myrobalan were used by Claudia Kostina (Kostina, 1946b) f or crossing with Japanese plums. If Japanese plum varieties is not hardy under climatic conditions of Ukraine, Myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids combine large fruit and hardiness. Two excellent cultivars 'Desertna' and 'Obilna' as progeny of Japanese plum 'Burbank' were zoned in 1969. A new fruit crop known in Ukraine as hybrid alycha has been developed, and the Crimean myrobalan cultivars are successfully replaced from the State Register. 'Olenka' [1995], 'Desertna Rannia' [2010], 'Femida' [2010], 'Rumiana Zorka' [2010] 'Andromeda' [2012] have been bred by Kostina followers.

Fruit of nectarine, *Prunus persica* [L.] Batsch var. *nucipersica* [Suckow]

[Suckow] C.K.Schneider,	-	C.K.Schneider, is appreciated for lack of peach pubescence. In Nikita Botanical Garden the world's nectarine gene pool was introduced. As a result of special breeding program a lot selects were bred, and 'Rubinovi 8' [2001], 'Krymchanin' [2013], and 'Rubinovi 9' [2013] were registered.
" " [2013] " 8" [2001], 9" [2013].	-	
Webb, <i>Prunus dulcis</i> [Mill.] D. A. XVI	-	Almond, <i>Prunus dulcis</i> [Mill.] D. A. Webb, has been cultivated in Ukraine from the XVI century. According to the pre-war assortment it was recommended for growing in some southern areas, but in the zoned assortment of 1948, which took the coldest winters of 1939/1940, 1941/1942 into consideration, this crop was missing. Only in 1954 the first almond cultivars named 'Krymskyi', 'Nikitskyi 62', and 'Yaltinskyi' were included to the zoned assortment. Breeding of late-blooming cultivars has been improved to expand the industrial cultivation area. In Nikita Botanical Garden more than 50 varieties have been bred (Rikhter, 1972; Yadrov and Chernobai, 2001; Chernobaj, 2010). It allows growing almonds in the whole Crimea and across the southern areas in Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Zakarpattya Regions. New varieties combine later flowering with early fruit ripening [45]. In the State Register 'Desertnyi' [1976], 'Nikitskyi 2240' [1986], 'Prybereznyi' [1986], 'Milas' [2000], 'Bospor' [2011], 'Oleksandr' [2011], and 'Vitiiaz' [2013] have been listed.
1948 . , ,	-	
1939/1940 ., 1941/1942, 1954 .,	-	
" " " 62" " "	-	
50 (Rikhter, 1972; Yadrov and Chernobai, 2001; Chernobaj, 2010).	-	
- , , -	-	
[45].	-	
[1976], " 2240" [1986], " " [1986], " " [2011], " "[2013].	-	
13- .	-	
1994 .	-	
" "	-	Owing to subtropical climate of the southern Crimean coast Nikita Botanical Garden is the main place for breeding of olive, fig, pomegranate, persimmon, feijoa, as well as jujube, and pawpaw (. Evergreen olive, <i>Olea europea</i> L., is the hardiest and the most frost-resistant subtropical tree. In Ukraine the olive tree has cultivated on the southern coast of the Crimea, probably since the 13th century. In 1994 only one 'rymska Prevoskhodna' was registered. Fig, <i>Ficus</i>

, *Ficus carica* L., -
. .
.
1920 .
(Arendt, 1964, Shishkina, 2010).
"
1994 .
[2010] " "
"[2014] , *Acca sellowiana* (O.
) , *Punica granatum* L.,
-
. ,
.
Yadrov, 1990). --
" " -
1994 .; - 2013
" " " "
 , *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill.,
1814 . 1954 .
(Sinko, 1971; Sinko et al.,
1999). "
" 2006 .
,
.

carica L., is most likely to have been brought to the Crimea by Genoese. It sometimes runs wild there. Naturalised forms are adapted to local conditions, but they have fruit of poor quality. The numerical fig assortment of world breeding have been collected and tested.

In 1920s the breeding programme based on infraspecific and interspecific hybridization, and also polyploidy was begun in Nikita Botanical Garden (Arendt, 1964; Shishkina, 2010). As a result, some varieties have been bred, but the only 'Sabrutsia Rozheva' was been listed in the State Register in 1994. The names of registered varieties 'Nikitska Aromatna [2010]', and 'Aromatna Fantazia' [2014] designate fruit aromaticity of feijoa, *Acca sellowiana* (O. Berg) Barrett. Pomegranate, *Punica granatum* L., needs covering in winter in most of the territory of Ukraine.

So, it is rarely cultivated, mostly by amateurs. In out-door conditions without winter covering the pomegranate tree grows only in the Crimean subtropics. It was introduced there in ancient times (Sinko and Yadrov, 1990). The first cultivars 'Sokovytyi' of Ukrainian breeding was registered in 1994; and later in 2013 'Niutinskyi' and 'Nikitskyi Rannii' also were included to the State Register.

Jujube, *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill., is widely distributed in warm and drought regions throughout the world, and was introduced in Nikita Botanical Gardens in 1814. In 1954 the collection was enlarged a lot with Chinese varieties. The collection of Chinese varieties was served as the basis for successful jujube breeding (Sinko, 1971; Sinko et al., 1999). The first Ukrainian cultivar 'Plodivskyi' was registered in 2006. It was bred in the Branch of Nikita Botanical Garden, which nowadays is an original research unit under the name of Nova Kakhovka Experimental Farm of the Rice

Institute. Later new cultivars 'S n t' [2010],
 'Tsukerkovyi' [2010], and 'oktebel'
 [2012] were bred in Nikita Botanical
 Garden.

In 2006 some persimmon cultivars
 were also registered by Nova Kakhovka
 Experimental Farm. They are 'Hora
 Hoverla', 'Hora Kosh', and 'Hora
 Rodzhers' (Derevianko, 2007). They
 belong to hybrid group *Diospyros kaki* ×
virginiana F₃. Both East Asian *D. kaki*
kaki Thunb. and North American *D. virginiana*
virginiana L. were introduced in Nikita Botanical
 Garden in the XIX century. Here, in 1901
 the first commercial plantation of oriental
 persimmon was established (Kazas,
 2007). The first Ukrainian variety of *D.*
kaki 'Suputnyk' was bred in Nikita
 Botanical Garden and entered into the
 State Register in 1994. Then in 2010,
 large group of persimmon cultivars of
 Nikita Botanical Garden breeding was
 included to the State Register. In addition
 to *D. kaki* 'Pivdenna Krasunia', 'Suvenir
 Oseni', 'Ukrainka', 'Zirochka', 'Zolotysta',
 some interspecies hybrids like F₁
 'Rosiianka' and F₂ 'Nikitska Bordova'
 were registered.

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba* Dunal,
 was introduced in Ukraine in the early XX
 century, but it has recently gained an
 importance as the fruit crop after
 importation of new varieties from the USA
 (Hrabovetska, 2011). Some varieties
 'Michurinka' [2008], 'Novokakhovchanka'
 [2008], 'Plodivchanka' [2008] of the Nova
 Kakhovka Experimental Farm breeding
 and 'Victoria' [2010] of Nikita Botanical
 Garden breeding are registered.

In 1913 the Academician Mykola
 Kashchenko (Kashchenko, 1914)
 founded the Acclimatization Garden in
 Kyiv, and he initiated the introduction and
 breeding work with many new and rare
 fruit crops. Further the collections of his
 Acclimatization Garden became the basis
 for breeding of fruit plants in M. M.
 Hryshko National Botanical Garden. Now

700
(Klimenko, 2013).

18", " " " 1999 .

(Klimenko, 1993).

and Mezhen'skiy, Kashenko, (Klymenko 2013), *Chaenomeles*

1937 .

2001 .

30 " " " " " " , *Cornus mas* L.,

30 19

collection and selection funds of cultivated and wild plants consist of about 700 species and varieties (Klimenko, 2013). Many cultivars of hardy kiwi, cornelian cherry, Japanese and common quince, magnolia wine, nectarine, and plum hybrids have been bred and included to the State Register. M. M. Hryshko National Botanical Garden is the leading institution in the breeding work on hardy kiwi, cornelian cherry and both common and Japanese quinces.

In additional to cultivars of Nikita Botanical Garden breeding there are 'Akademichna', 'Darunok Onuku', 'Kashchenka No 18', 'Maria', and 'Studentka' registered in 1999. They are raised in M. M. Hryshko National Botanical Garden from Crimean plants too. The cultivars are hardy and suitable for cultivating in all the natural areas of Ukraine (Klimenko, 1993).

Japanese quinces, *Chaenomeles* ssp., are the legacy of Kashenko breeding as well as to quince cultivars (Klymenko and Mezhen'skiy, 2013). The natural range of *Chaenomeles* species is restricted to East Asia. They have been under cultivation in Europe for over two centuries as ornamentals. Pioneer works on domestication of Japanese quince as fruit crop were realised in Ukraine.

In 1937 near Kyiv the first commercial plantation was established and first eight fruit cultivars were registered in 2001. Four fruit cultivars 'Karavaiev'skiy', 'Pomaranchev'y', 'Tsytrynov'y', and 'Vitaminnyy' are originated in M. M. Hryshko National Botanical Garden.

Cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas* L., is native in the Crimea and Right-Bank Ukraine. It is a long-lived tree and many regions of Ukraine, where cultivated, have age-old specimens. In the 1930s the local large-fruited varieties were recommended for cultivation according to

Schisandra sinensis (Turcz.) Baill.,
 " " 1" 1998

avellana (L.) H. Karst.,
 Var. *C. avellana* (L.) H. Karst.
 () Mezhen'skij,
 1930
 (Pavlenko, 1987).
 " " [1981], "
 " [1991], " "
 [1988] "[1996], " "[1990], "
 " "[1995], "
 "[1991] " 83
 "[1985]
 1981
 1992
 316
 730
 1120.
 266
 981, 532
 (Mezhen'skij)

fruit climber from East Asia is magnolia
 vine, *Schisandra sinensis* (Turcz.) Baill.,
 'Sadovi 1' was registered in 1998. The
 fruit of this liana is excellent tonic and
 restorative.

H. M. Vysotskyi Ukrainian
 Research Institution of Forestry and
 Sylvicultural Reclamation is the leader in
 hazel breeding. Hazel, *Corylus avellana*
 (L.) H. Karst., is native to flora of Ukraine,
 and is widely cultivated. Southern variety
 of hazel, *C. avellana* (L.) H. Karst. var.
maxima (Mill.) Mezhen'skij, with a long
 husk, was introduced in the Crimea
 probably in the ancient time. In 1930
 hazel breeding programme started in the
 network of the Institute (Pavlenko, 1987).
 As a result 'Bolhrad'ska Novynka' [1981],
 'Borov'skij' [1991], 'Dar Pavlenka' [1991],
 'Klynopodibnyi' [1988], 'ronchastij'
 [1991], 'Lozov'skij Kuliastij' [1989],
 'Pyroz'hok' [1996], 'Raketnij' [1990],
 'Shedevr' [1995], 'Shokoladnij' [1988],
 'Sribliastij' [1991], and 'Stepovi 83'
 [1985] were selected among hybrids [46].

In 1981 in Donetsk Experimental
 Station of Horticulture, nowadays
 Artemiv'sk Experimental Station of
 Nurseries Cultivation, we started
 collecting rare fruit plants and began
 breeding work with them. In 1992 this
 rare fruit crop collection was included as
 a component to the National Collections
 of the newly formed National Centre for
 Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine. It
 consisted of 316 species, subspecies and
 interspecific hybrids, and also 730
 varieties and promising forms. The total
 number of accessories was 1120. Since
 our moving to Kyiv, we have created a
 new collection in the National University
 of Life and Environmental Sciences of
 Ukraine, including practically former
 collection accessories. This collection is
 numbering 266 species and interspecific
 hybrids.

The total number of accessories is 981,
 including 532 varieties and promising
 forms of rare fruit crops and ornamental

and Mezhenka, 2015).
Chaenomeles *superba* (Frahm) Rehder
 " " " " " "
californica W.B.Clarke ex C.Weber
 " " "

2001 .,

" " [2001]
Hippophae *rhamnoides* L., "
 " " [2000].

" " [1997], "
 [1998], [1998], "
 " " [2007].

" " [2001], " " 2001,
 „ " [2001], " " 2009
 2009
 (2001), " " (2001), " "
 (2001) " " (2001).

" " 3" [1966],
 " " [2004], " 1"
 [2004], " 1" [1976],
 5, 2003 6, 7
 "[2003], " 107 "[1971]
 " " [2004].

" 1",

fruits (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenka, 2015). At the station *Chaenomeles* \times *superba* (Frahm) Rehder 'Nika', 'Nikolai', and 'Nina', and *Ch.* \times *californica* W.B.Clarke ex C.Weber 'lif' were bred by us. These cultivars were included to the State register in 2001 together with Japanese quince cultivars of M. M. Hryshko National Botanical Garden breeding. We selected a cornelian cherry 'Bylda' [2001] and sea buckthorn, *Hippophae rhamnoides* L., 'Solodka Zhinka' [2000] too. Fresh fruit 'Solodka Zhinka' is tasty, sourish-sweet. In the station a large extensive stone fruit crops programme was also realized, resulting in selecting myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids 'Donchanka Rannia' [1997], 'Naidionysh' [1998], 'Plamenna' [1998], 'Heneral' [2007], and 'Tetiana' [2007].

The breeding work on rare fruit crops is conducted in other scientific institutions of gardening, forestry and botanical profile too. In Donetsk Botanical Garden mulberry, *Morus alba* L., 'Bilosnizhka' [2001], 'Dina' [2001] 'Mashenka' [2001], 'Merezhivo' [2009], and 'Pivdenna Nich' [2009] and blue honeysuckle, *Lonicera caerulea* L., 'Donchanka' [2001], 'Skifska' [2001], 'Stepova' [2001], and 'Ukrainka' [2001] were bred (Glukhov et al., 2002; Hlukhov et al., 2003). In the former Institute of Sericulture, nowadays it is a part of the Institute of Experimental & Clinical Veterinary Medicine, many forage mulberry cultivars for silkworm were selected, e.g. 'Kharkivska 3' [1966], 'Merefianska' [2004], 'Slobozhanska 1' [2004], 'Ukrainska 1' [1976], 'Ukrainska 5' [2003], 'Ukrainska 6' [2003], 'Ukrainska 7' [2003], 'Ukrainska 107' [1971] and fruit cultivar 'Nadia' [2004]. The forage mulberry cultivars except male 'Ukrainska 1' have edible fruit too, but are not grown in fruit orchards. Blue honeysuckle fruit become ripe very early in May or June, opening a fresh berry season, therefore breeders of some establishments pay

[2000], " " [2010], "
" " [2010],
" ",
" "
(Mezhenskyj
and Mezhenska, 2016).

" " [2010] "
" [2013].

Vaccinium corymbosum hort.. "Fiolent"
[2015].

" " [2000]
" " [2000]

Crataegus punctata
Jacq. " ", . *Submollis* Sarg. Var.
arnoldiana (Sarg.) Mezhenskyj „ "
C. pennsylvanica Ashe „ „

2001.
(Mezhenska and
Mezhenskyj, 2013).

Viburnum opulus L.

80-
" " [2008] " "
[2001],
[2001],

their attention to this plant. Besides
foregoing cultivars 'Alisia' [2010],
'Bohdana' [2000], 'Spokusa' [2010],
selected in Krasnokutsk Research Centre
and 'Chaika' [2010], selected in L. P.
Smyrenko Institute of Pomology, are
included to the State Register. Fruit
mulberry, blue honeysuckle, blackberry,
and blueberry are rich sources of
anthocyanins and other flavonoids,
possessing strong antioxidative potential,
being useful to human health
(Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2016).
They are used by food industry as natural
colorants. The first steps in the blackberry
breeding were made by the National
University of Life and Environmental
Sciences of Ukraine, where *Rubus*
'Nasoloda' [2010], and 'Sadove Chudo'
are selected [2013].

The private breeder Volodymyr
Dmytriiev bred *Vaccinium corymbosum*
hort. 'Fiolent' [2015]. By private persons
sea buckthorn 'Kyivskiy Yantar' [2000],
and 'Lybid' [2000] and some hawthorn
cultivars have been registered too. It is
large-fruited haw *Crataegus punctata*
Jacq. 'Liudmyl', . *submollis* Sarg. var.
arnoldiana (Sarg.) Mezhenskyj
'Zbigniew', and *C. pennsylvanica* Ashe
'Shamil' included to the State Register in
2001. They are the first fruit cultivars in
this systematic group of North American
hawthorn species (Mezhenska and
Mezhenskyj, 2013).

As for other rare fruit crop, we
should particularly tell about cranberry
bush, *Viburnum opulus* L. This sacred
plant is a symbol of Ukraine, the
Ukrainian people, eternal love etc. Since
the ancient times the cranberry bush has
been planted near houses, but only in
1980s the commercial growing of this
plant started. In the State Register there
are 'Koralova' [2001], 'Rubinova' [2008],
and 'Velykoplidna' [2001], which was
bred in L. P. Smyrenko Institute of
Pomology.

20-

" 4" (2007 .) " 5" (2007 .)

Malus × astracanica hort ex Dum-Cours
Malus × adstringens Zabel, "D 471" [2000] "D 1071" (2000 .)

" [2009], " [2009], " [2009], " [2009], " [2009], " [2009]

Malus pumila Mill.

(Tretiak et al., 1990; Matvienien et al., 2006). "IS 2-10" [2000], "IS 4-6" [2000], , *Prunus × eminens* Beck 'Studenikivska' [2013]. , × *Cydolus rudenkoana* Mezhenskyj, "UUPROZ-6" [2010] "Vesennee Plamy" [2005], - (Prunus americana Marsh. × P. × *simonii* Carrière) × P. *Cerasifera*, Phyloxera (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2016). *Vitis instabilis* Ardenghi, Galasso, Banfi & Lastrucci "4923" [2014]

Rootstocks for fruit crops of Ukrainian breeding were registered in the second half of the 20th century together with rare fruit crops. Notwithstanding the fact that a part of them is rootstocks for traditional fruit crops, most of them are originated by the way of interspecies and intergeneric hybridisation, and similar to rare fruit crops. So, clonal apple rootstock ' D 4' [2007] and ' D 5' [2007] breeding of Krasnokutsk Research Centre are most likely to be either *Malus xastracanica* hort ex Dum.-Cours. or *Malus xadstringens* Zabel, but 'D 471' [2000] and 'D 1071' [2000] of Artemivsk Experimental Station of Nurseries Cultivation breeding and 'Baturynska' [2009], 'Konotopska' [2009], 'Maliuk' [2009], 'Nadia' [2009], 'Nizhynska' [2009], 'Sambirska' [2009], and 'Slobozhanska' [2009] of the Institute of Horticulture breeding, belong to *Malus pumila* Mill. Scientists of the Institute of Horticulture have productively worked in the field of breeding of other rootstocks also (Tretiak et al., 1990; Matviienko et al., 2006). Pear rootstock, quinces 'IS 2-10' [2000], 'IS 4-6' [2000], are registered in the State Register as well as sweet-cherry rootstock, *Prunus xeminens* Beck 'Studenikivska' [2013]. Moreover, in the result of the common efforts with other establishments, the universal pome crop rootstock, ×*Cydolus rudenkoana* Mezhenskyj, 'UUPROZ-6' [2010] and rootstock for plum group 'Vesennee Plamy' [2005], originated from crossing between several plum species [(*Prunus americana* Marsh. × P. ×*simonii* Carrière) × P. *cerasifera*], were included to the State Register too.

Resistant to *Phyloxera* grapevine rootstocks were bred in Tairov Institute of Viticulture and Winemaking and included to the State Register (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2016). They are *Vitis xinstabilis* Ardenghi, Galasso, Banfi & Lastrucci '4923' [2014], a hybrid *Vitis*

Vitis vinifera L. *Vitis rupestris* | *vinifera* L. × *Vitis rupestris* Scheele
 "Dobrynia" [2007], *Vitis koberi* | 'Dobrynia' [2007], and complex hybrid
 Ardenghi, Galasso, Banfi & Lastrucci | from crossing of *Vitis xkoberi* Ardenghi,
 [[*Vitis vinifera* *Vitis Riparia* Michx.] + Galasso, Banfi & Lastrucci × [[*Vitis*
Vitis ruggerii Ardenghi, Galasso, Banfi & Lastrucci + *Vitis riparia* Michx.] + *Vitis*
 & Lastrucci + *Vitis Riparia* Michx.] Harant | *xruggerii* Ardenghi, Galasso, Banfi &
 "[2014]. - [2014]. Total results of breeding of rare
 - fruit crops with pointing out
 2. establishments and common names of
 plants are summarized in the Table 2.

2.

Table 2. Results of rare fruit crops and rootstock breeding in Ukraine

Breeding establishment / Private breeder	Crops	Fruit cultivars	Root-stocks
Nikita Botanical Garden – National Scientific Centre, Yalta, Autonomous Republic of Crimea	Crimean myrobalan & myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids; almond; persimmon; quince; nectarine; jujube; pomegranate; feijoa; pawpaw; olive; fig	55	–
M. Hryshko National Botanical Garden, Kyiv	hardy kiwi; cornelian cherry; quince; Japanese quince; myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrid; nectarine; magnolia vine; peach rootstock	41	1
M. Vysotskyi Ukrainian Research Institution of Forestry and Sylvicultural Reclamation, Kharkiv	filbert	12	–
Artemivsk Experimental Station of Nurseries Cultivation of the Institute of Horticulture, Bakhmut, Donetsk region	myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids; Japanese quince; cornelian cherry; sea buckthorn; apple rootstocks	11	2
Donetsk Botanical Garden, Donetsk	mulberry; blue honeysuckle	9	–
National Scientific Centre "Institute of Experimental & Clinical Veterinary Medicine", Kharkiv	Mulberry	9	–

Nova Kakhovka Experimental Farm, Nova Kakhovka. Kherson region	persimmon; pawpaw; jujube	8	–
L. P. Symyrenko Institute of Pomology, Mliiv, Cherkassy region	cranberry bush; cornelian cherry; blue honeysuckle; pome crops rootstock	5	1
" " Krasnokutsk Research Centre of the Institute of Horticulture, Krasnokutsk, Kharkiv region	blue honeysuckle; apple rootstocks	3	2
Volodymyr Mezhenskyj & Liudmila Mezhenska, Kyiv	hawthorn	3	–
Ihor Dmytriiev & Volodymyr Dmytriiev, Kyiv	sea buckthorn; blueberry	3	–
Institute of Horticulture, Kyiv	myrobalan-Japanese plum hybrids; apple rootstocks; pome crops rootstock; cherry rootstock; plum rootstock	2	12
National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv	Blackberry	2	–
" " National Scientific Centre "Tairov Institute of Viticulture and Winemaking", Odesa	grapevine rootstocks	0	3
/ Total		161*	20*

*

* Some varieties are a result of team-work of two research establishments

,
-
, *Sorbus s.str.* SSP.,
, *Cornus domestica* [L.] Spach,
, *Aronia mitchurinii* A.K.Skvortsov
& Maitulina *Sorbaronia* SP.,
Amelanchier SSP.,
, *Prunus*
tomentosa Thunb. *Prunus besseyi* L. H.
Bailey
, *Prunus* × *dasycarpa*
Ehrh.,
, *Ribes*

There are also several fruit crops
whose varieties have not been registered
yet. They are rowans, *Sorbus s.str. ssp.*,
service tree, *Cornus domestica* [L.]
Spach, chokeberries, *Aronia mitchurinii*
A.K.Skvortsov & Maitulina and
×*Sorbaronia* sp., serviceberries,
Amelanchier ssp., both Manchu cherry
and Bessey cherry, *Prunus tomentosa*
Thunb. and *Prunus besseyi* L. H. Bailey
respectively, and their hybrids, black
apricot, *Prunus* × *dasycarpa* Ehrh., golden

aureum Pursh, *Berberis* SSP., *Pyrus pyrifolia* (Burm. f.) Nakai, *Mespilus germanica* L., *Corylus colurna* L. (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2015).

current, *Ribes aureum* Pursh, barberries, *Berberis* ssp., nashi, *Pyrus pyrifolia* (Burm. f.) Nakai, medlar, *Mespilus germanica* L., Turkish hazel, *Corylus colurna* L., etc (Mezhenskyj and Mezhenska, 2015).

CONCLUSIONS

The natural conditions of Ukraine allow to cultivate about 1000 species of fruit plants. Apples, pears, apricots, peaches, prunes, sour and sweet cherries, gooseberries, black and red currants, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, and Persian walnuts have been traditionally cultivated. In the second half of the 20th century the varieties of new fruit crop started to be included to the State Register of Plant Varieties of Ukraine. Total 161 varieties of rare plants and 20 rootstocks of Ukrainian breeding have been registered. These are pome fruits: quinces, hawthorns, Japanese quinces; stone fruits: Crimean myrobalan & myrobalan Japanese plum hybrids, nectarines, olives, cornelian cherries, cranberry bush, jujubes; small fruit crops: hardy kiwies, persimmons, pomegranates, figs, magnolia vines, sea buckthorns, blue honeysuckles, mulberries, pawpaws, blackberries, blueberries, feijoas; nut crops: almonds, hazelnuts, and score rootstocks of both pome and stone fruit crops, and grapevine rootstock. There are also many selects of other fruit plants that have not been registered yet.

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In vitro

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***In vitro* pollen germination of different highbush blueberry cultivars grown in Western Serbia**

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SUMMARY

in vitro

- *In vitro* pollen germination test is one of the main indicators of pollen functional viability. This characteristic is in large extent the first indicator of the genotype adaptation to different geographical conditions.

The paper presents the results of *in vitro* pollen germination of highbush blueberry cultivars Reka', 'Nui', 'Duke', 'Ozarkblue' and 'Bluecrop' (control), grown in agro-ecological conditions of Western Serbia.

During the three-year study the highest pollen germination was recorded in cultivar 'Reka' (80.93%), and the lowest in cultivar 'Nui' (62.31%). Since the weather conditions can greatly affect the

in vitro

" " " " " " " " " " ("),

(80.93%),
(62.31%).

(70.14%).

expression of these traits, the lowest pollen germination in all cultivars was recorded in the second year of the study (70.14%).

Key words: highbush blueberry, pollen, quality, germination test

INTRODUCTION

(Leposavi ,
2014). Stösser et al. (1996)

The process of pollination and fertilization of highbush blueberries is largely dependent on pollen quality and storage conditions (Leposavi , 2014). Stösser et al. (1996) stated that the quality of pollen varies between cultivars within certain fruit species. Some authors indicated the phenomenon of variation of *in vitro* pollen germination in different fruit species per year, as well as different influence of the experimental conditions on this characteristic, especially temperature (Pirlak 2002; Cerovi et al., 2005; Mert, 2009).

(Pirlak 2002,
Cerovi et al., 2005, Mert, 2009).
Pirlak (2002), *in vitro*

According to Pirlak (2002), high *in vitro* pollen germination at different temperatures in various species and cultivars, from the standpoint of the regularity of certain phases of the fertilization process, may be the first indicator of suitability of the genotypes to different environmental conditions.

, Merrill (1936)

Studying pollen germination in several highbush blueberry cultivars, Merrill (1936) found that the increase of sucrose content in nutrient media (over 12%) proportionally increased germination of pollen grains.

12%),

In contrast, the results of the study of pollen germination in 6 blueberry cultivars conducted by Eaton (1966) showed that the increase of sucrose content in nutrient agar (from 10 to 20%) had no influence on the germination of pollen grains. The lowest pollen grain germination showed cultivar 'Weymouth' (5.5%), and the highest 'Pemberton' (70.6%). Wood and Barker (1964)

(1966),

(10 20%)

(5,5%),

"Weymouth"
"Pemberton"

(70,6%). Wood and Barker (1964)	-	recorded the highest germination (35%) of pollen grains in the wild lowbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> Ait.) in nutrient medium that contained 0.5% agar and 13.5% sucrose.
-	(35%)	
<i>angustifolium</i> Ait.)	(<i>Vaccinium</i>	
0.5%	13.5%	
"	" (<i>Vaccinium</i>	Pollen germination in rabbiteye blueberry (<i>Vaccinium ashei</i> Reade) varied from 80.2 to 90.2% in the trials of Brevis et al. (2006). According to the results of Dogterom et al. (2000), pollen of cultivar 'Bluecrop' showed the highest germination comparing to 'Patriot' (93.2 and 88.8%, respectively).
<i>ashei</i> Reade)	80.2 90.2%	
	Brevis et al. (2006 .).	
(2000),	Dogterom et al.	
"	" "	
" (93,2 88,8%).	

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The three-year study (2008–2010) was carried out in the experimental blueberry plantation established in the spring of 2006 in the locality a ak (43°53.654' north latitude and 20°20.619' east longitude, 245 m altitude, and north-south row orientation).

Three-year old certified plants were planted at a distance of 2.5 x 1.5 m. The inter-row space was layered with 10 cm of sawdust obtained from coniferous trees (Leposavi, 2014).

In vitro pollen germination test have been used to estimate pollen viability. Branches with flowers in the full bloom stage all of cultivars were used for the test. Anthers were kept in paper boxes at a temperature of 20 °C for 24-48 h, until the moment of rupture and the release of pollen grains. Pollen of each cultivar was inoculated into three Petri dishes on the nutrient medium (1% agar and 12% sucrose).

After 24 h of incubation on 20 °C the number of germinated pollen grains was evaluated in three fields of view under light microscope Olympus BX61 (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). Microscope field of view included about 100 pollen grains. Pollen grains that germinated exceeding their radius were considered as germinating grains (Galleta, 1983). The share of germinated grains per year was evaluated as average number of

germinated pollen grains on nine different microscopic fields of view.

Obtained data were statistically analyzed using two factor (A - cultivar, B - year) analysis of variance (ANOVA) (ANOVA) (Hadživukovi, 1991). The significance of differences among mean values in regard to standard cultivar 'Bluecrop' was determined by Dunnett test (Dunnett, 1955).

The significance of differences among mean values per year and interaction mean values of cultivars (pollination variant) x year was determined by Duncan multiple range test (Duncan, 1955).

(Duncan Multiple Range) (Duncan, 1955).

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In vitro

one of the main indicators of pollen functional viability. Factors affecting pollen germination are: fruit species, nutritional and health status of the plant, flower position on the plant, weather conditions, time and manner of pollen collection and storage, density of inoculated pollen on the nutrient medium, composition and pH value of the medium, etc. (Stanley and Linskens, 1974).

in vitro

Using *in vitro* germination test, only pollen grains that germinated on nutrient media exceeding their radius were considered as germinating grains

Analysis of variance of pollen germination showed significant differences between cultivars, year and different germination of cultivars per year (Table 1, Figure 1).

Significantly higher pollen germination in regard to control cultivar, mean value for three years, showed cultivar 'Reka'. On the contrary, the lowest pollen germination was recorded in cultivar 'Nui' (P<0,01). Significantly higher pollen germination, regardless cultivar, was evidenced in the third year of the study. In general, lower germination in the second year is a consequence of the lower pollen

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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" " " ", Cerovi et al. (2005). germination in cultivars 'Nui', 'Bluecrop' and 'Duke', as reported by Cerovi et al. (2005). The same authors stated the occurrence of variation of *in vitro* pollen germination in different fruit species per year.

1. in vitro (%)
2008 2010

Table 1. Pollen germination *in vitro* (%) of highbush blueberry cultivars, from 2008 to 2010

/Treatment			
/Cultivar			
	'Duke'		73.13 ns
	'Nui'		62.31**
	'Reka'		80.93**
	'Ozarkblue'		75.87 ns
	'Bluecrop'		73.76
/Year	2008		73.65 a
	2009		70.14 b
	2010		75.81 a
	'Duke'	2008	75.76 a-d
		2009	67.61 de
		2010	76.02 a-d
	'Nui'	2008	66.60 e
		2009	54.22 f
		2010	66.11 e
	'Reka'	2008	79.68 ab
		2009	83.05 a
		2010	80.07 ab
	'Ozarkblue'	2008	73.60 b-e
		2009	76.45 a-d
		2010	77.55 abc
	'Bluecrop'	2008	72.63 b-e
		2009	69.35 c-e
		2010	79.30 ab
ANOVA			
Cultivar (A)/	()		**
Year (B)/	()		**
A × B			**

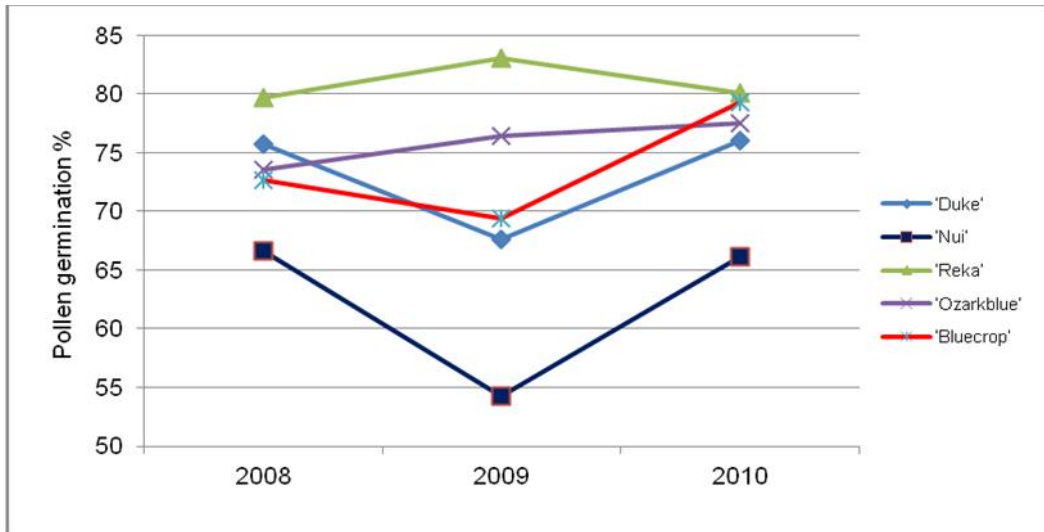
Asterisk represents significant differences between mean values of 'Bluecrop' (control) and other cultivars for $P < 0.05$ (*) and $P < 0.01$ (**) based on Dunnett test and the results of ANOVA (F test); ns – not significant. Means per rows for year and interaction mean A×B marked with the same lowercase letter represent that there are no differences for $P < 0,01$ based on Duncan multiple range test.

Ns - P<0.05 (*) P<0.01 (**)

ANOVA (F);

A B

P <0,01



1.
 2008 . 2010 .
Fig. 1. Pollen germination of highbush blueberry cultivars, from 2008 to 2010

"Pemberton" (70,6%),
 Eaton (1966). Wood & Barker (1964)
 (35%)
 Brevis et al. (2006).
 Dogterom et al. (2000)
 (93,2%)

Cultivars 'Reka' and 'Ozarkblue' showed the same pollen germination during entire study. Cultivar 'Nui' showed the significantly lower pollen germination in regard to other cultivars during all years. Pirlak (2002) stated that this characteristic may indicate its lower adaptability to agricultural and ecological characteristics of the locality. This should be considered when selecting blueberry cultivars to plant.

Apart lower pollen germination of cultivar 'Nui', pollen germination of other cultivars is higher than the highest value of cultivar 'Pemberton' (70.6%), as reported by Eaton (1966). Wood & Barker (1964) recorded low pollen germination (35%) in highbush blueberry cultivars. Significantly higher values of this characteristic were reported by Brevis et al. (2006).

Dogterom et al. (2000) reported higher values (93.2%) of pollen germination for cultivar 'Bluecrop' than reported in our study.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the three-year study of pomological characteristics of five highbush blueberry cultivars: 'Reka', 'Duke', 'Nui', 'Ozarkblue' and 'Bluecrop' we may conclude that in vitro pollen germination represents cultivar's characteristic. The highest value of pollen germination showed cultivar 'Reka' (80.93%), and the lowest cultivar 'Nui' (62.31%). These results may indicate low adaptability of the cultivar 'Nui' to agricultural and ecological characteristics of the locality where the experiment was established.

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Effect of anti-hail nets on the yield and fruit quality of raspberry cultivars in Western Serbia

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SUMMARY

The impact of anti-hail nets on yield and fruit quality of two floricane red raspberry cultivars 'Meeker' and 'Willamette' and a primocane cultivar 'Polka' has been examined in agro-ecological conditions of Western Serbia. The experiments were set up in the localities in the municipality of Arilje (Western Serbia). Anti-hail net and drip irrigation system were installed in 'Meeker' and 'Willamette' plantations. In the plantation with cultivar 'Polka', beside anti-hail net and drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation system was installed. During the same period, experiments were also conducted in the plantations of these cultivars grown by the conventional system without anti-hail net and with drip irrigation system.

Obtained results showed that anti-hail net in unfavorable weather conditions (high temperatures, excessive insolation, snow and hail) significantly reduce their negative effects. In contrast, the negative effect of anti-hail net was recorded during seasons with extremely high rainfall and a reduced amount of daylight.

Key words: raspberry, weather conditions, effect, anti-hail net, yield

INTRODUCTION

Bramble production is under heavy impact of the environmental factors. These factors may have a negative effect on the yield and fruit quality. Anti-hail nets may reduce insolation and possible danger during harvest in summer period, and may also reduce the negative mechanical effect of heavy rainfalls and high temperatures (Petrovi and Leposavi, 2016). The positive effect is manifested during years with unfavorable weather conditions and in following years through better and more regular yield potential and higher yields (Kiprijanovski et al., 2016). The color of anti-hail nets may influence in significant manner on the yield, fruit quality, taste and aroma, but also on the vegetative and generative growth balance (Shahah et al., 2008).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Pomological properties of two florricane raspberry cultivars 'Willamette' and 'Meeker' were studied in the agro-ecological conditions of Western Serbia during 2015-2016. The experiments were set up in locality Mirosaljci, municipality of Arilje. Anti-hail net (shade percentage 18-20%) and drip irrigation system were installed in plantations with raspberries 'Meeker' and 'Willamette'. Raspberries were grown in vertical trellis system with two single wires. In the plantation with raspberry 'Polka', beside anti-hail net and

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170-175 cm (

10

25

(kg),

(kg.ha⁻¹).

(kg)

Ohaus Adventurer Pro.

Vernier

(SS)

Carl Zeiss 3828.

drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation system was installed. During the same period, experiments were also conducted in the plantations of the stated cultivars grown by the conventional system without anti-hail net and with drip irrigation system.

In plantations with raspberries 'Willamette' and 'Meeker' all selected and tied canes were topped at 170-175 cm (two buds above the upper wire) during spring. Each cultivar was included with four repetitions of 10 meters per row. After tying, canes were counted per each repetition. In the plantation with 'Polka' only autumn harvest was conducted, after which all canes were cut above the ground.

The yield was obtained by measuring all harvested fruits on the sample consists of 25 selected canes, from the beginning to the end of the harvest. The yield per meter of row and per unit of area was obtained by multiplication of yield per cane and the number of canes per unit area.

Other yield parameters that were followed were: total number of canes, number of canes per meter of row, yield per cane (kg), yield per row meter (kg) and yield per unit area (kg.ha⁻¹).

Fruit mass was measured on the technical balance Ohaus Adventurer Pro. Fruit dimensions (length, width and thickness) were measured with Vernier scale. The soluble solids (SS) were measured by manual refractometer Carl Zeiss 3828.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Greater number of canes per meter of row and total number of fruiting canes per unit area was recorded in cultivars grown by the conventional system without anti-hail net in both years of the study. Considering the growing system in raspberry 'Polka' (row 60 cm wide), the greatest number of fruiting canes per row

meter and unit area was recorded in the plantation without anti-hail net (44,000 in 2016; Table 1). Raspberries 'Willamette' and 'Meeker' grown in the trellis system gave the greatest number of canes in plantations that were not covered with anti-hail nets.

During the first year of the study plants of all three cultivars under anti-hail net had higher yields per cane and unit area than plants grown without net (Tables 1 and 2).

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Table 1. Yield of raspberry cultivars in plantations grown by the conventional system

Cultivar	Year	(m) Number of canes (per m of row)	(ha) Total number of canes (on ha)	Yield per cane (g)	Yield per unit area (kg.ha ⁻¹)
'Meeker'	2015	5.3	21,200	690	14,628
	2016	5.5	22,000	470	10,340
'Willamette'	2015	5.6	22,400	745	16,688
	2016	5.8	23,200	510	11,832
'Polka'	2015	9.4	39,686	215	8,532
	2016	11.0	44,000	225	9,900

2.

Table 2. Yield of raspberry cultivars in plantations under anti-hail nets

Cultivar	Year	(m) Number of canes (per m of row)	(ha) Total number of canes (on ha)	Yield per cane (g)	Yield per unit area (kg.ha ⁻¹)
'Meeker'	2015	5.2	20,800	750	15,600
	2016	5.4	21,600	520	11,230
'Willamette'	2015	5.4	21,600	790	17,064
	2016	5.7	22,800	580	13,224
'Polka'	2015	9.0	38,000	242	9,196
	2016	10.5	42,000	218	9,156

The highest yield was recorded in raspberry 'Willamette' (790 g per cane, 17,064 kg.ha⁻¹), followed by 'Meeker' (750 g per cane; 15,600 kg.ha⁻¹) and 'Polka' (242 g per cane, 9,196 kg.ha⁻¹). Similar results were obtained in the second year of the study. 'Willamette' had the highest yield in both plantations (with and without anti-hail net). The yield under

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580 g

13,224 kg.ha⁻¹. " , " ,
 , 1.392 kg
 - ,
 " , " ,
 892 kg - ,
 - ,
 (16 2016 .; 1).

net was 580 g per cane, and 13,224 kg.ha⁻¹. 'Willamette' grown without net had 1,392 kg less yield per ha, than the one grown under net. Raspberry 'Meeker' grown under net had 892 kg higher yield than the one grown without net. One of the main cause of higher yields in plantations under anti-hail net is that net prevented the damages of fruiting laterals under late snowfall (16 May 2016; Figure 1).



1.
Fig. 1. Snow breakage of raspberry fruiting laterals

3 4.

The results of the morphometric parameters of raspberry fruits and soluble solids content are given in Tables 3 and 4.

3.

Table 3. Morphometric parameters of fruits and soluble solids content in raspberry cultivars grown by the conventional system

Cultivar	Year	Fruit mass (g)	Fruit length (mm)	Fruit width (mm)	Fruit thickness (mm)	Soluble solids (%)
'Meeker'	2015	3.75	21.33	17.86	17.54	12.88
	2016	3.94	21.84	18.14	16.64	12.10
'Willamette'	2015	3.94	21.84	19.56	19.22	12.55
	2016	4.09	23.76	18.82	18.08	11.70
'Polka'	2015	4.44	26.02	20.68	19.86	11.17
	2016	4.21	22.98	19.40	18.74	10.55

4.

Table 4. Morphometric parameters of fruits and soluble solids content in raspberry cultivars grown under anti-hail net

Cultivar	Year	Fruit mass (g)	Fruit length (mm)	Fruit width (mm)	Fruit thickness (mm)	Soluble solids (%)
'Meeker'	2015	3.88	22.45	18.27	18.25	12.55
	2016	3.56	22.34	18.07	18.00	11.13
'Willamette'	2015	4.09	23.76	18.82	18.08	12.14
	2016	3.88	22.80	18.85	18.50	10.80
'Polka'	2015	4.51	25.42	19.92	19.75	11.12
	2016	4.11	23.40	19.09	18.80	9.56

SS

All three cultivars had larger fruits but with lower SS content in plantations under anti-hail nets during the first year of the study. This is explained by the fact that net suppressed the negative effect of high summer temperatures and prevented sunscald that were evidenced in the plantations without nets.

The largest fruits and the lowest SS content had raspberry 'Polka' (4.51 g; 11.12%, respectively) grown under net. However, raspberry 'Meeker' grown without net had the smallest fruits and the highest SS content (3.75 g; 12.88%, respectively).

The results obtained in the second year of the study were diverse. Due to heavy rainfalls and lack of sunlight and heat, all three cultivars grown without anti-hail nets had larger fruits and higher SS content compared to the ones grown under net (Tables 3 and 4).

The significant occurrence of botrytis fruit rot caused by *Botryotinia fuckeliana* (de Bary) Whetzel was evidenced in raspberry 'Polka' grown under net during 2016 (Figure 2).



2.
Fig. 2. Fruit rot of raspberry 'Polka'

CONCLUSIONS

Obtained results showed that anti-hail net, under unfavorable weather conditions (high temperatures, sunscald, late snowfall and hail) significantly reduce their negative effects.

In contrast, the negative effect of anti-hail net was recorded during seasons with extremely high rainfall and a reduced amount of daylight. Heavy rainfall and reduced sunlight were expressed during the second year of the study during flowering and fruiting.

The negative effect was reflected in lower yields, fruit size and soluble solids content. In the second part of the vegetation period, during fruiting of raspberry 'Polka', a higher number of rotted fruits was evidenced.

Further studies on the influence of anti-hail nets with lower shade percentage on the yield and quality of raspberry fruits are needed.

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The drying curves of plum cultivar a anska Rodna

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SUMMARY

This paper presents the drying curves of the plum cultivar a anska Rodna, as the result of test examinations of the plum drying process with diverse characteristics of fresh fruits. All tests were conducted in the experimental dryer - for examination of convective drying process as a discontinuous operation. The drying chamber was fitted with trays with hot air flowing through plum fruits at the constant drying temperature of 90 °C.

It was noted that the drying curves (the curves of total fruit mass, curves of moisture content on a wet base and curves of moisture content on a dry base), at the constant parameters of the drying temperature, depend on the characteristics of fresh fruits.

Key words: plum, a anska Rodna, fruit characteristics, drying kinetics, drying curves

INTRODUCTION

Technological properties of fresh fruits significantly affect the prune quality. In order to obtain high-quality dried fruits - of adequate appearance, colour,

(Barbanti et al., 1994; Cinquanta et al., 2002; Mitrovi et al., 2013),

(Barbanti et al., 1995; Newman et al., 1996; Sabarez et al., 1997; Di Mateo et al. , 2002; Mitrovi et al., 2006; Goyal et al., 2007; Mitrovi et al., 2013b).

consistency, taste and smell, it is important not only to select suitable cultivars for drying (Barbanti et al., 1994; Cinquanta et al., 2002; Mitrovi t l., 2013), but also to choose within the cultivar fresh fruits of adequate initial characteristics.

The most common method of drying plums, mostly used in Serbia to date, is convective drying. The convective drying process is a simultaneous process of heat and mass transfer. Water evaporating is carried by heated air, conveying heat and receiving evaporated water at the same time. Such simultaneous process of heat and mass transfer is very complex and represents a set of complex mechanisms, thus implying that the technology of drying plum fruits is far from being simple and excluding a possibility to obtain quality dried fruits by each method of convective drying process.

Modern approach of determining convective plum drying technology therefore cannot be conceived without testing the drying kinetics, carried out in the experimental units (Barbanti et al., 1995; Newman et al., 1996; Sabarez et al., 1997; Di Mateo et al., 2002; Mitrovi t l., 2006; Goyal et al., 2007; Mitrovi t l., 2013b).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study in this paper included the examinations of the drying kinetics of plum cultivar a anska Rodna in the experimental drying apparatus for testing the convective drying process, a discontinuous operation in the experimental drying chamber with trays (Kandi et al., 2007; 2014).

Fruits of the plum cultivar a anska Rodna taken from the Fruit Research Institute a ak 'Preljinsko brdo' locality, treated with regular agro- and pomotechnical measures commonly applied for

3,500 g,
 21 kg.

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 90 ° ,
 (1).
 (1)
 (2), (3), (4) (5)

this fruit type, have been used for the examination. Before drying process, measuring and determination of the basic fruit parameters were carried out:

- measuring of fruit mass, fruit stone mass and the content of dry matter. Mass share of the stone in the fruit was determined based on the fruit and stone mass.

The experiments were performed by placing plum fruits on a respective tray. Each tray represented a single experiment while six trays placed one on top of another represented a cumulative system experiment. Total fresh fruit nett mass on each tray had approximately the same value of 3.500 g and the total mass of fresh plum fruits on all six trays was about 21 kg.

The arranged trays with layers of fruits allowed vertical streaming of hot air with pre-defined characteristics (temperature, flow, moisture).

- During the experiment, drying was performed at the same constant temperature of 90 °C, which was the input temperature of the heated air, before passing through plum fruit trays. For uniform fruit drying on all trays, vertical direction of flow-through heated air was changed at the precisely set intervals.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Basic method of displaying results of testing drying kinetics for each of the six individual experiments are six single experimental tables.

- Since the results shown in tables are not readable enough for mutual comparison and analyses it is necessary to display them in a more reliable and precise manner, in a summary table (Table 1).

- In the column (1) number of the experiment code is indicated. In the columns (2), (3), (4), and (5) basic fresh fruit characteristics on the pre-defined

- M_P [g] –
- G_{K_o} [kg/kg] –
- G_{SM_o} [kg SM / kg] –
- M_o [g] –
- M_z [g] –
- G_{SMz} [kg SM / kg] –
- z [h] –

tray at the start of drying process are given (which represent initial experimental values):

- M_P [g] – Average mass of individual fresh fruits;
- G_{K_o} [kg/kg] – Average mass share of stone in individual fresh fruits;
- G_{SM_o} [kg SM / kg] – Average content of total dry matter in edible part of individual fresh fruits (total dry matter of fresh fruits);
- M_o [g] – Total fresh fruit mass on a tray (nett mass).

In columns (6), (7) and (8) final experimental parameters of dried fruits on a tray are indicated at the end of drying process:

- M_z [g] – Final total mass of dried fruit on a tray;
- G_{SMz} [kg SM / kg] – Final content of total dry matter in edible fruit part (total dry matter of dried fruit);
- z [h] – Total period of drying fruit process on a respective tray until final content of dried fruit matter on that tray.

1.

Table 1. Summary review of basic experimental units

Experiment code	Average mass of fresh fruit M_P (g)	Average mass share of the stone G_{K_o} (%)	Total dry matter of the fresh fruit G_{SM_o} (%)	Total mass of fresh fruit on a tray M_o (g)	Total mass of dried fruit on a tray M_z (g)	Total dry matter of dried fruit G_{SMz} (%)	Total drying time z (h)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(01)	44,6	3,23	22,1	3504	1115	74,8	9
(02)	44,6	3,23	22,1	3496	1101	75,7	9
(03)	44,6	3,23	22,1	3502	1098	76,4	9
(04)	40,5	3,23	22,1	3500	1106	75,4	8
(05)	44,6	3,23	22,1	3494	1097	75,7	9
(06)	42,5	3,34	22,1	3505	1110	75,4	8,5

1

Analyzing the basic unit results shown in Table 1 and by comparing the drying time at different trays, i.e. the duration of the drying process to an approximate constant value of 75% of the total dry matter content of the dried fruit

75%

G_{SMz} , , -
 22,1%, G_{SMo}
 M_p
 :
 ➤ 9 ,
 44,6 g;
 ➤ 8,5 ,
 42,5 g;
 8 ,
 40,5 g.
 " " Mitrovi et al.. (2007), -
 23%, 42 g
 9 ,
 30 g -
 7 " "
 19%, Mitrovi et al. (2014) ,
 11
 50 g
 9,75 34 g.
 G_{Ko} ,
 G_{SMz} ,
 :
 ➤ () G_{Ko}
 , -
 ;
 ➤ G_{SMz}
 75% ± 1%
 .

G_{SMz} , it can be stated that the duration of the drying process, at a constant value fresh fruit total dry matter G_{SMo} of 22.1%, extremely depends on the average mass of individual fresh fruit at the start of drying the M_p . The drying time periods are as follows:

➤ Drying time 9 h, if average mass of individual fresh fruit on a tray at the start of drying is 44,6 g;

➤ Drying time 8,5 h, if average mass of individual fresh fruit on a tray at the start of drying is 42,5 g;

Drying time 8 h, if average mass of individual fresh fruit on a tray at the start of drying is 40,5 g.

Similar results of testing drying kinetics of the plum cultivar a anaska Rodna were found by the authors Mitrovi et al. (2007) using the fruits of different masses with total dry matter content of 23%, wherein the fruits of 42 g were dried for 9 h, while the fruits of 30 g, were dried for 7 h.

In fruit cultivar Stanley with total dry matter content of 19% Mitrovi et al. (2014) noted that the drying time was 11 h for the fruits of 50 g, and drying time was 9.75 h for the fruits of 34 g.

Comparing the corresponding values for the average mass share of stone in individual fresh fruits G_{Ko} on trays at the start of drying and the values of total dry matter of dried fruit G_{SMz} at the end of drying process it could be noted that the values for:

➤ Average mass share of stone (endocarp) in individual fresh fruits G_{Ko} on respective trays at the start of drying, as initial experimental note, did not differ, and therefore did not affect the duration of drying process;

➤ Total dry matter content of dried fruit G_{SMz} at the end of drying on all trays had the same value of about 75% ± 1%, and therefore also did not affect the duration of drying process.

Results of the drying kinetics on all trays during the drying process are shown for the respective three units in the following tables:

- M [g] – Total fruit nett mass (Table 2);
- W [kg W/kg] – Moisture content on a wet base (Table 3);
- U [kg W/kg SM] – Moisture content on a dry base (Table 4).

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- W [kg W/kg] – Moisture content on a wet base (Table 3);
- U [kg W/kg SM] – Moisture content on a dry base (Table 4).

2. M [g]

Table 2. Fruit mass M [g] on trays during the drying period

[h]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]
	44,6	44,6	44,6;	40,5	44,6	42,5
	G_{Ko}	G_{Ko}	G_{Ko}	G_{Ko}	G_{Ko}	G_{Ko}
	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]
	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0334
G_{SMo}	G_{SMo}	G_{SMo}	G_{SMo}	G_{SMo}	G_{SMo}	
[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	
0,2210	0,2210	0,2210	0,2210;	0,2210	0,2210	
G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	
[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	
0,7480	0,7567	0,7604	0,7538	0,7593	0,7541	
Tray 1	Tray 2	Tray 3	Tray 4	Tray 5	Tray 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
0	3.504	3.496	3.502	3.500	3.494	3.505
1	3.225	3.137	3.110	3.032	2.919	2.979
2	2.575	2.524	2.568	2.754	2.502	2.600
3	2.225	2.165	2.172	2.136	2.079	2.147
4	1.881	1.841	1.847	1.820	1.807	1.858
5	1.647	1.610	1.593	1.543	1.555	1.582
6	1.448	1.418	1.403	1.349	1.389	1.404
7	1.306	1.277	1.257	1.192	1.239	1.240
8	1.193	1.169	1.154	1.106	1.146	1.139
8,5	1.148	1.132	1.123		1.118	1.110
9	1.115	1.101	1.098		1.097	

3.

W [kg W/kg]

Table 3. Moisture content on a wet base W [kg W/kg] on trays during the drying period

[h]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]	M_P [g]
	44,6	44,6	44,6;	40,5	44,6	42,5
	G_{K0}	G_{K0}	G_{K0}	G_{K0}	G_{K0}	G_{K0}
	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]
	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0323	0,0334
G_{SM0}	G_{SM0}	G_{SM0}	G_{SM0}	G_{SM0}	G_{SM0}	
[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	
0,2210	0,2210	0,2210	0,2210;	0,2210	0,2210	
G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	G_{SMz}	
[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	[kg/kg]	
0,7480	0,7567	0,7604	0,7538	0,7593	0,7541	
Tray 1	Tray 2	Tray 3	Tray 4	Tray 5	Tray 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
0	0,7790	0,7790	0,7790	0,7790	0,7790	0,7790
1	0,7592	0,7528	0,7501	0,7436	0,7337	0,7384
2	0,6956	0,6899	0,6949	0,7166	0,6872	0,6984
3	0,6452	0,6357	0,6362	0,6300	0,6200	0,6312
4	0,5761	0,5673	0,5681	0,5615	0,5589	0,5699
5	0,5114	0,5006	0,4939	0,4765	0,4819	0,4889
6	0,4386	0,4271	0,4194	0,3944	0,4145	0,4182
7	0,3718	0,3577	0,3453	0,3063	0,3365	0,3332
8	0,3060	0,2920	0,2805	0,2462	0,2767	0,2673
8,5	0,2764	0,2643	0,2588		0,2546	0,2459
9	0,2520	0,2433	0,2396		0,2407	

(M_P, G_{K0}, G_{SM0})(G_{SMz})

: M, W, U.

- The first columns of the tables indicate the time during the drying process. Other six columns show the comparative results for the parameters of fruits and kinetics of the drying process.

- In the upper part, four basic characteristics of the fruit on all six trays are shown. The first three units (M_P, G_{K0}, G_{SM0}) represent the initial point of experimental data, and the fourth (G_{SMz}) represents calculated unit based on the measured values at the end of drying.

- In the lower parts of the tables the results drying kinetics for all six trays of indicated variables are shown as: M, W, U. Variables that characterize the kinetics of drying process were obtained by calculation from the measured experimental characteristics of fresh plum fruits and fruit mass at respective time

intervals during the drying process.

4.

U [kg W/kg SM]

Table 4. Moisture content on a dry base U [kg W/kg SM] on trays during the drying period

[h]	M_P [g] 44,6	M_P [g] 44,6	M_P [g] 44,6;	M_P [g] 40,5	M_P [g] 44,6	M_P [g] 42,5
	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0323	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0323	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0323	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0323	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0323	G_{Ko} [kg/kg] 0,0334
	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210;	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210	G_{SMo} [kg/kg] 0,2210
	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7480	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7567	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7604	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7538	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7593	G_{SMz} [kg/kg] 0,7541
	Tray 1 1	Tray 2 2	Tray 3 3	Tray 4 4	Tray 5 5	Tray 6 6
0	3,5249	3,5249	3,5249	3,5249	3,5249	3,5249
1	3,1526	3,0447	3,0015	2,8996	2,7554	2,8224
2	2,2852	2,2248	2,2778	2,5282	2,1973	2,3162
3	1,8181	1,7447	1,7491	1,7026	1,6312	1,7112
4	1,3591	1,3113	1,3151	1,2804	1,2672	1,3252
5	1,0468	1,0024	0,9760	0,9104	0,9300	0,9565
6	0,7813	0,7456	0,7223	0,6512	0,7078	0,7188
7	0,5918	0,5570	0,5273	0,4415	0,5071	0,4998
8	0,4410	0,4125	0,3898	0,3266	0,3826	0,3649
8,5	0,3761	0,3617	0,3449		0,3447	0,3262
9	0,3369	0,3216	0,3150		0,3171	

Another way of presenting experimental results is by graphical drying curves. Drying curves define in fact the kinetics of plum fruit drying on a respective tray. For each experiment, several drying curves can be shown for each of the selected variable in the function of time.

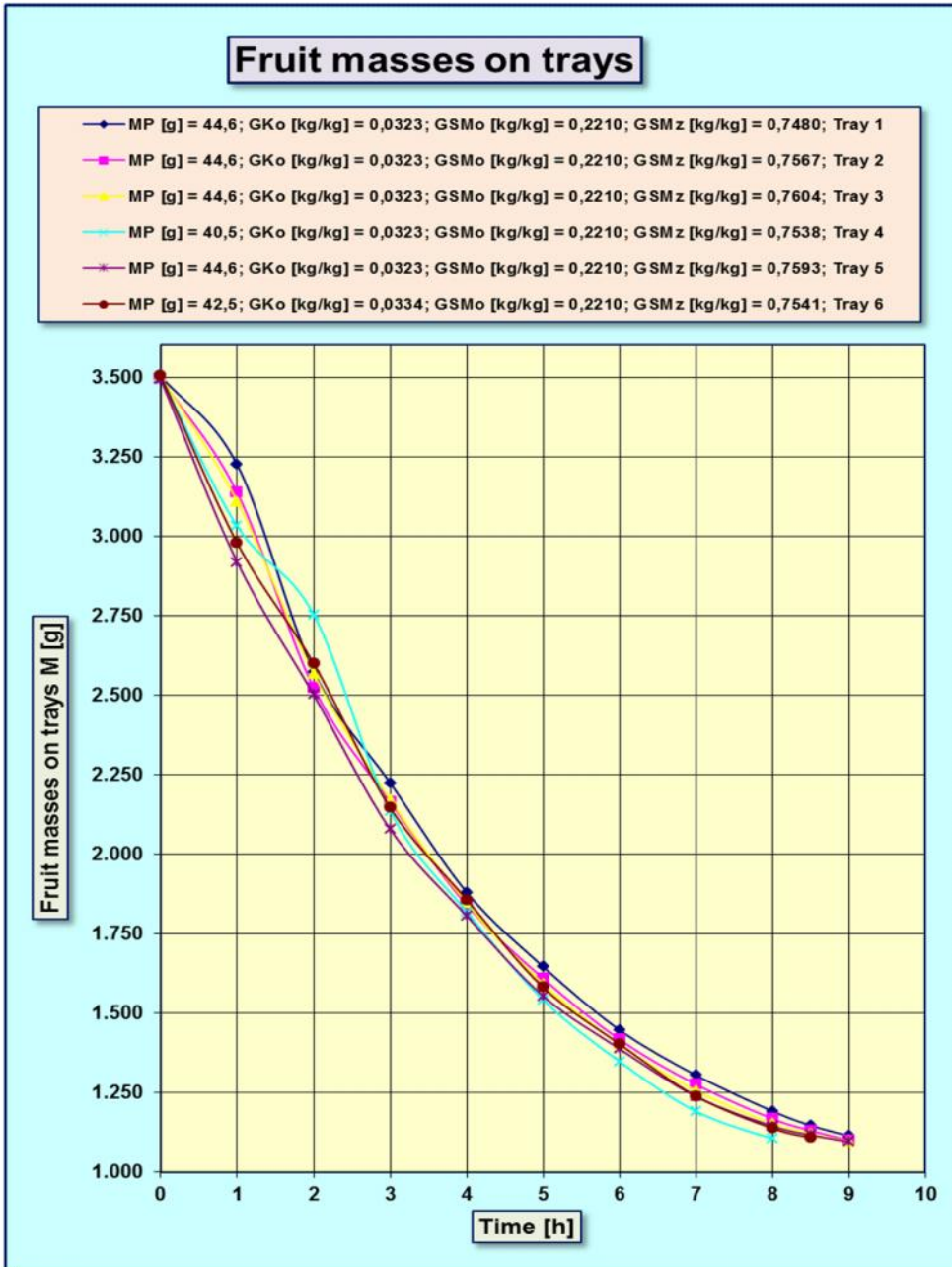
Such individual display of drying curves would require a lot of space so instead, it is appropriate to display the combined drying curve for the whole system experiment with all the 6 individual experiments, i.e. 6 comparative drying curves on a single graphic for each of three different variables respectively:

6

6

- M [g] – (1);
- W [kg W/kg] – (2);
- U [kg W/kg SM] – (3).

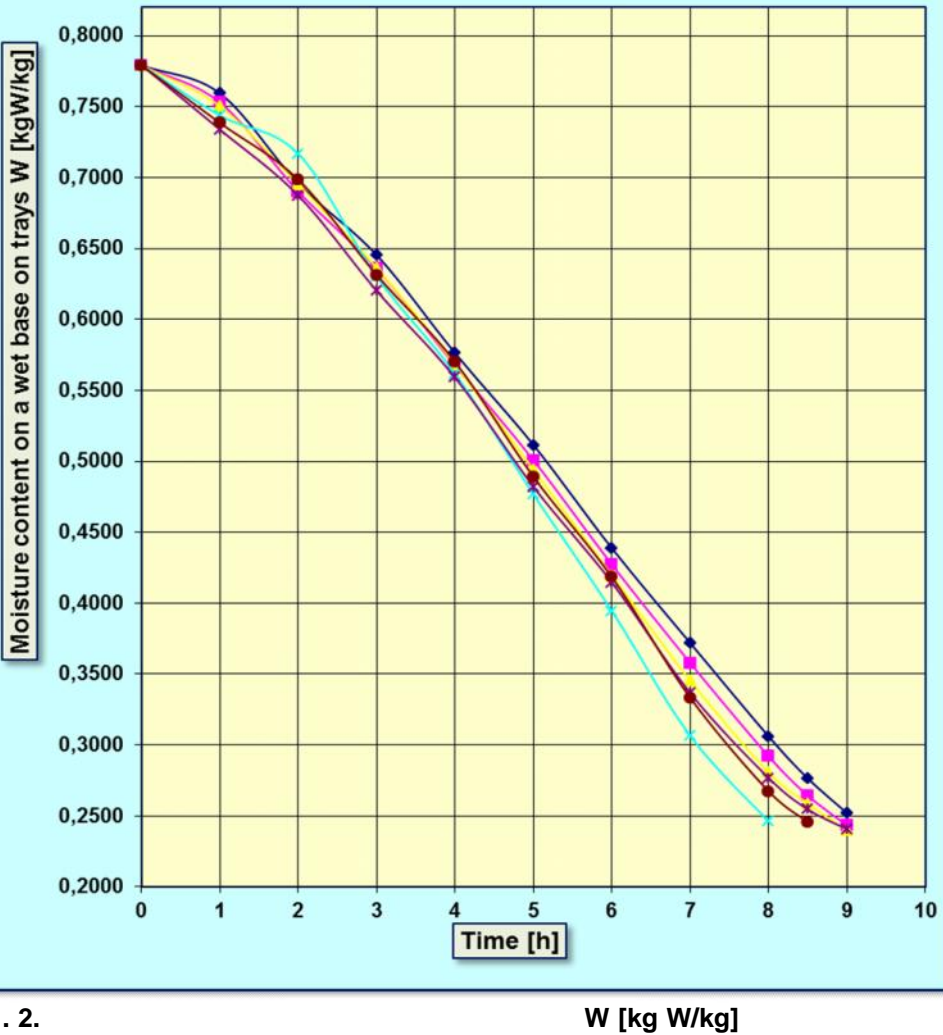
- M [g] – Total fruit nett mass (Figure 1);
- W [kg W/kg] – Moisture content on a wet base (Figure 2);
- U [kg W/kg SM] – Moisture content on a dry base (Figure 3).



1. M [g]
 Fig. 1. Fruit masses M [g] on trays during the drying period

Moisture content on a wet base on trays

- MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7480; Tray 1
- MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7567; Tray 2
- ▲— MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7604; Tray 3
- ◆— MP [g] = 40,5; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7538; Tray 4
- *— MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7593; Tray 5
- MP [g] = 42,5; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0334; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7541; Tray 6

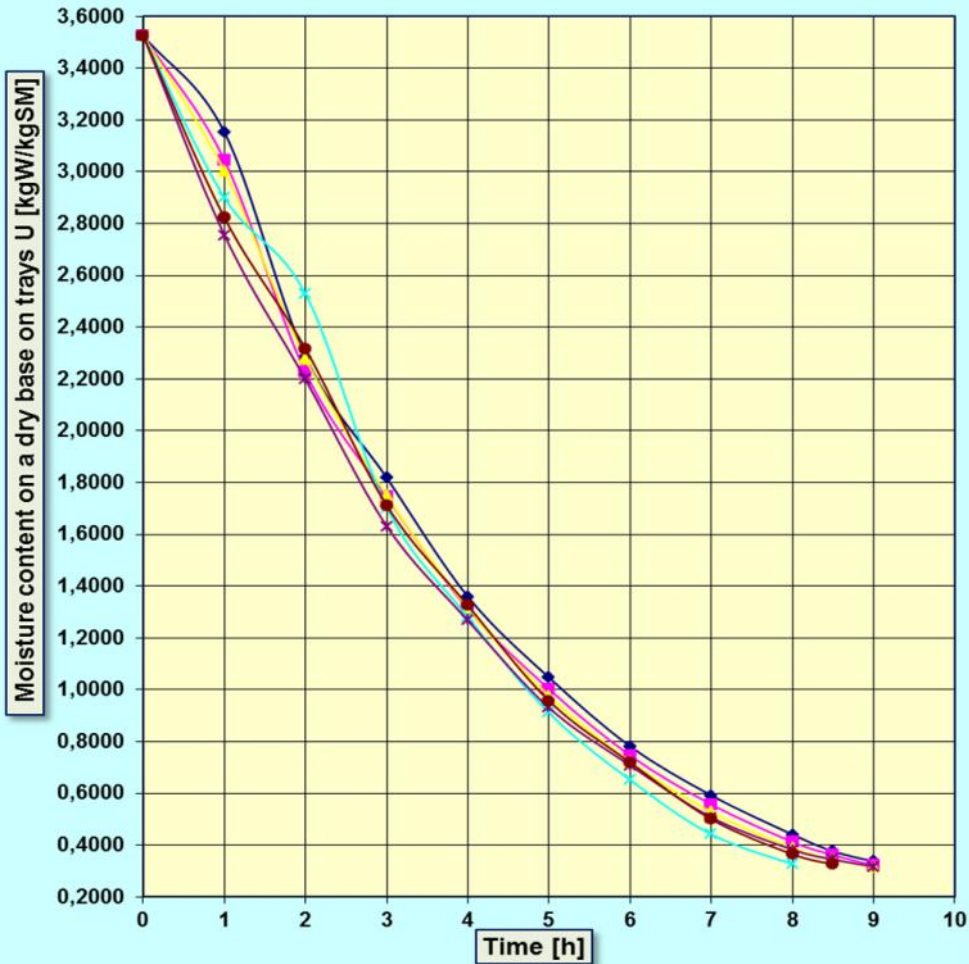


. 2.

Fig. 2. Contents of moisture on a wet base W [kg W/kg] on trays during the drying period

Moisture content on a dry base on trays

- MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7480; Tray 1
- MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7567; Tray 2
- ▲— MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7604; Tray 3
- ◆— MP [g] = 40,5; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7538; Tray 4
- ×— MP [g] = 44,6; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0323; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7593; Tray 5
- MP [g] = 42,5; GKo [kg/kg] = 0,0334; GSMo [kg/kg] = 0,2210; GSMz [kg/kg] = 0,7541; Tray 6



. 3.

U [kg W/kg SM]

Fig. 3. Contents of moisture on a dry base U [kg W/kg SM] on trays during the drying

3 4
3)

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W

U)

➤

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2,
1, 2

The main conclusion that can be drawn by analyzing the results presented in tabular (Table 2, 3 and 4) and graphical form (Figure 1, 2 and 3), is that comparative drying curves provide better and closer illustration of changes in the course of drying process than table sheets (thus resulting in better described changes during the drying process.

Observing the shape and the flow of the comparative drying curves for the three units, the following statements can be concluded:

➤ The values of all three comparative variables of the drying kinetics (the total fruit mass M , moisture content on a wet base W and moisture content on a dry base U) are changed in an approximately same manner, which is best observed in the changes of moisture content on a dry base;

➤ Drying curves for the three variables are of the same drop down shape, and are located within a single ray, i.e. show a good congruence, which means that drying process is taking place evenly on all trays;

➤ Drying process in the first two hours, is not stationary, i.e. it is the initial period of the non-uniform drying, there is a "loss" of curves from the ray, resulting in non-uniform drying on all trays;

➤ The drying process of the second to the eighth hour is uniform, i.e., this drying period is a period of uniform drying in which there is not a "loss" of curves from the ray, and there is an excellent congruence of curves in the ray so the drying process takes place evenly on all respective trays;

➤ The drying process after eighth hour is the final period of drying in which drying asymptotically finishes upon reaching the final total mass of dried fruits with 75% of dry matter at the end of drying process;

➤ In the final period, drying on trays is

uniform ending at the same time, with a certain "loss" of curves from the ray and drying unevenness on the trays on which drying process does not end at the same time;

➤ Duration of drying process to an approximate constant value of total dry matter content of the dried fruit G_{SMz} depends expressively on the average mass of individual fresh fruits on a respective tray at the start of drying M_P (at the constant value of fresh fruit total dry matter G_{SMo}).

CONCLUSIONS

The results of testing the kinetics of drying plum fruits a anska Rodna in the experimental dryer for examination of convective drying process are shown in this paper in tabular and graphical form as comparative results for six experiments on six experiments set up on all trays in three variables: total nett fruit mass, moisture content on a wet base and moisture content on a dry base. The following was noted:

➤ Comparative drying curves indicate changes during the drying process in a better and more detailed manner than tabular reviews.

➤ Duration of the drying process to an approximate constant value of 75% of total dry matter content of the dried fruit, at the constant value of fresh fruit total dry matter depends expressively on the average mass of individual fresh fruits on a tray at the start of drying.

➤ The drying process finishes at the same time on trays if average fresh fruit masses of individual fruits are same at the start of drying. The drying process does not end at the same time on all the trays if average masses of individual fresh fruit at the start of drying are not the same.

➤ Drying curves of all three variables are of the same drop down shape and are located within a single ray, which means that drying process as a

(,). whole takes place uniformly on all trays (not stationary only in the first two hours until drying process is stabilized in all trays).

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