

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

**LITTLE CHERRY DISEASE
THREATENS
IDAHO CHERRY ORCHARDS**

Survey and Eradication Program by
Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station
and State Department of Agriculture

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
MOSCOW

Survey and Eradication Program for Little Cherry Disease in Idaho

THE little cherry disease, a destructive virus disease of cherries, is widespread in the Pacific Northwest and doubtless occurs in Idaho. A survey for the disease will be conducted this summer in the cherry producing areas of the state by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Idaho and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Growers will be requested to remove infected trees in order to prevent the spread of the disease and to eradicate it if possible. The survey will be made during the months of June and July as the disease can be detected only by the appearance of the fruit.

First Discovered in British Columbia

The little cherry disease was first observed in 1933 in the Kootenay district of British Columbia. The disease was new and its seriousness was not recognized, and no attempt was made to eradicate it for several years. It spread rapidly and now has affected 100 per cent of the cherry trees in some districts in the area. The cherry industry in that area is practically doomed. The fruit from affected trees is not suited for the fresh market and is of little value for processing purposes. Canadian authorities are now trying to protect areas not yet invaded by the disease.

Washington State Also Involved

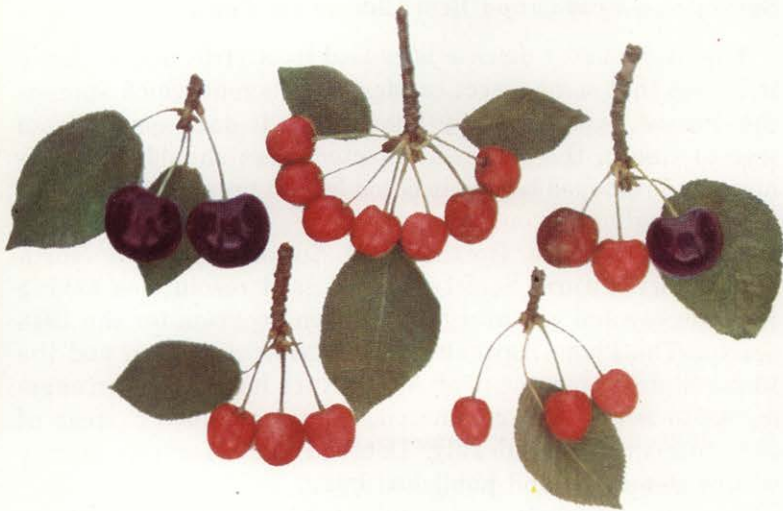
A survey in the State of Washington was conducted during June and July, 1947, and little cherry was found on 289 properties in 13 counties east of the Cascade mountains. In this survey in Washington, 172,078 trees were examined and 1,471 were found infected. The survey will be continued in 1948, and a voluntary program of eradication by growers will be continued.

LITTLE CHERRY SURVEY IN 1949

During the summer of 1948 the University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and the Idaho Crop Pest Control and Research Commission cooperated in a survey of Idaho cherry orchards to determine the presence of the "little cherry" virus disease. Orchards were inspected in all commercial cherry growing areas in the state with spot checks in other areas. Cherry orchards in 12 counties in various parts of the state were inspected. In all the orchards surveyed, each cherry tree was inspected individually, and, where symptoms of little cherry were found, the tree was marked.

Out of the 201 properties inspected, 43 had one or more cherry trees showing little cherry symptoms. Out of the 59,173 cherry trees inspected, a total of 901 were found to be infected with the little cherry virus. Areas of infection were found in southern Idaho in Gem, Payette, and Canyon counties. Infection was also found in Adams and Nez Perce counties. No infection was found in the areas north of Nez Perce county or east of Gem county. The complete results of the voluntary program for the removal of all diseased trees are not yet known.

In the 1949 survey the cherry orchards in the commercial cherry growing areas will be inspected again and an attempt will be made to inspect many of the home orchards missed in 1948. Growers are asked to cooperate with the surveying crew. Further information may be secured from your local Horticultural Inspector, or your county Agricultural Agent.



LITTLE CHERRY DISEASE ON BING CHERRY
Healthy and Diseased Fruits Shown

Disease Identified by Fruit Only

The little cherry disease can be identified only by the appearance of the fruit when it approaches maturity. Fruit on infected trees or on portions of infected trees grow to only about half the size of normal fruit. Affected fruits are more angular and pointed than healthy fruits. They retain the bright red of immature cherries beyond the normal picking time and lack in sweetness and flavor. The leaves and trees show no signs of the little cherry disease. The colored plate illustrates the disease and shows the comparison between diseased and healthy fruits. In some cases both kinds of fruit may be found on the same tree or even on the same branch.

Other factors such as rosette may cause symptoms similar to little cherry. Whenever trees are found producing cherries similar to those illustrated, these trees should be examined by someone familiar with the little cherry disease.

Survey and Eradication Best Chance for Control.

The little cherry disease is caused by a virus and evidence indicates that some insect carrier is the agent which spreads the disease. It is definitely known that it does spread from tree to tree in the orchard. Infected trees should be recognized and removed before it is too late to prevent the disease from spreading beyond control.

The Idaho State Horticultural Society and the North Idaho Horticultural Society both passed resolutions asking for a survey and voluntary eradication program for the 1948 season. The Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture have made arrangements to survey the commercial cherry producing areas of the state in June and July. Detailed plans for this survey will be developed and published later.

Growers may help materially in this program; first, by reporting to the local County Extension Agent or the local State Inspector any trees which are suspected of being infected with the little cherry disease, and second, by giving local support and aid when the survey is made next June and July.