



Testing black currant selections in The Netherlands

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Aim

The first black currant evaluation trials are planted in The Netherlands about 40 years ago. In the mean time several trials were planted and in total about 160 cultivars were tested. At the moment about 25 selections are under trial.

The new test selections come from several countries like Scotland, Poland, Finland, Rumania and Litouwen.



Selection criteria

The most important observations on new black currant selections are:

- Vigour (weak/strong) and leaf condition
- Growth habit (soft wood versus steep branches)
- Yield
- Flowering - and picking period
- Susceptibility to *mildew*
- Susceptibility to *currant bud mite* and *black currant reversion virus*
- Susceptibility to *lice*

The opinion of the growers is important in the evaluation of the selections. The suitability for mechanical harvesting is only tested on promising selections.



Trial field black currant selections

Results

In The Netherlands black currants are grown on 52 companies on a total acreage of 545 ha. Black currants are mostly grown in 'Zeeland', which is located in the south western part of The Netherlands.

The most commercially used varieties are not or hardly susceptible to mildew: Ben Tron, Ben Alder, Ben Connan and Ben Nevis from Scotland and Kristin and N11 from Norway. The trial results are utilised for the decision which new selections will be grown in practice.

Most of the Dutch black currants are sold by the Dutch Black Currant Cooperative (350 ha, 30 growers), mainly for industrial purposes like concentrate for juices.

The Dutch Black Currant Cooperative was founded in March 1989 with the aim of:

1. a joint sale of the black currants
2. a joint exploitation of harvest machines
3. exchange of knowledge about growing aspects