

# Cherry varieties suitable for organic cultivation in the Baltic region

## Problem

Key factors limiting organic cherry growing in Baltic states are cold stress in the winter, fruit cracking due to summer rain and fruit damage caused by cherry fruit flies (*Rhagoletis cerasi*).

## Solution

This practice abstract recommends suitable cherry varieties best in open fields and protected cultivation. A list of suitable organic cherries varieties is also provided.

## Benefits

The use of winter hard, cracking-resistant, medium and low-vigour cultivars, suitable for complex biocontrol of cherry fruit flies and other pests and diseases, can increase qualitative organic cherry yield in the Baltic region.

## Applicability box

### Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate fruits

### Keywords

Temperate fruits, Pest management

### Context

Baltic states

### Application time

Planting of trees

## Practical recommendation

- Check information about local cultivars tested at research stations and on established orchards. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Do I want to produce cherries with or without covers? Choose low vigour (vigour reducing rootstocks) and cultivars with high market fruit value for covered orchards; for open field cultivation, cracking tolerant and early ripening cultivars are best suited.
  - Do I want to offer cherries to retailers or to direct sales? Choose cultivars with dark red and firm fruit to sell to retailers; have a wider assortment with different fruit colours and firmness for direct marketing.
- Keep the trunk healthy - trunk liming is a good preventive means against winter damage.
- Pruning
  - Prune trees only in dry, sunny weather.
  - Perform spring pruning to advance the branching. Recommended for combinations of low-vigour growing cultivars and vigour-reducing rootstocks
  - Perform summer pruning to reduce the vigour.
- Cut out immediately, without waiting for spring or summer pruning, unhealthy, wilting, withering or gumming branches.
- List of cultivars suited for sweet cherry organic production:
  - Early to medium early ripening and resistant to cracking, suitable for open fields: Agila (better in warmer places) (Picture 1), Radica (Picture 2), Arthur.
  - Weak to medium vigour, firm fruit, suitable for growing under the covers: Artis, Aleksandrs (Picture 3), Tyutchevka (Picture 4).



**BIOFRUITNET**

Boosting Innovation in ORGANIC FRUIT  
production through stronger networks



## PRACTICE ABSTRACT



Picture 1: Sweet cherry cultivar, Agila. Photo: Fruittechcentre.



Picture 2: Sweet cherry cultivar, Radica. Photo: Fruittechcentre.



Picture 3: Sweet cherry cultivar, Aleksandrs of Latvian origin. Photo: Fruittechcentre.



Picture 4: Sweet cherry cultivar, Tuytchevka. Photo: Fruittechcentre.

### Further information

#### Further reading

- S. Ruisa and E. Kaufmane (2008) Cherry, apricot and peach cultivars. Rīga: Latvijas Valsts augļkopības institūts, 2008, 212 p. ISBN 9789984939247. (LV)

#### Weblinks

- Latvian Institute of Horticulture, D. Feldmane and Dz. Dēķena – Winterhardiness and health of sweet cherries grown on various rootstocks. New cultivar 'Artis'. (LV)
- Technology Transfer Centre - list of cherry varieties (LV, EN)
- Characteristics of organic sweet cherry rootstocks (BIOFRUITNET Practice Abstract) (EN)
- Check the Organic Farm Knowledge platform for more practical recommendations.

### About this practice abstract

**Publisher:** Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture  
Republikas laukums 2-501, Rīga, LV-1010  
+ 371 67027227, info@ekoproducti.lv, www.lbla.lv

**Author:** Gints Strazdins

**Contact:** gardmutis@gmail.com



**Review:** Ambra De Simone (IFOAM Organics Europe), Lauren Dietemann (FiBL)

**Permalink:** [organic-farmknowledge.org/tool/44785](https://organic-farmknowledge.org/tool/44785)

**Project name:** BIOFRUITNET- Boosting Innovation in ORGANIC FRUIT production through stronger networks

**Project website:** <https://biofruitnet.eu>

© 2022

