Chelan™

Parents: *Stella* x *Beaulieu*
Cross made in 1971 by Tom Toyama.
Tested as PC7146-23.

***Chelan*™ is the most popular early season, export-quality dark red sweet cherry in the Pacific Northwest. Similar to *Bing* in appearance, the fruit is medium-to-large in size, with a mahogany red skin and medium-to-dark red flesh. It ripens 10 to 12 days before *Bing*, has good firmness and flavor, and exhibits lower susceptibility to both rain-induced cracking and heat-induced double/spur fruit formation than *Bing*.**

***Chelan*™ produces a tree that is more moderate in branching angle than *Bing*. It flowers precociously and fruits heavily, requiring good management to achieve optimal fruit size. Thus, precocious rootstocks are not needed for early cropping and may make management for optimal fruit size more intensive.**

***Chelan*™ begins blooming several days ahead of *Bing*, though it flowers prolifically and generally overlaps with the later *Bing* bloom in the Pacific Northwest. It is self-**

infertile; known cross-pollinizers include *Rainier*, *Bing*, *Van*, and *Index*™. *Chelan*™ is incompatible with Burlat, Tieton™ and PC 7214-3. Pollen compatibility (S_3S_9). Recent screening tests have suggested *Chelan*™ is resistant to powdery mildew. More complete studies are being planned.

Most of the *Chelan*™ trees produced during the 1990s are assumed to be infected with Prune Dwarf Virus (PDV). Certified virus free budwood became available in 2000. Ongoing research has shown possible incompatibility of *Chelan*™ on Mahaleb rootstocks. Until further research is conclusive, *Chelan*™ is not recommended for propagation on Mahaleb rootstocks.

Production and compatibility of *Chelan*™ on rootstocks other than Mazzard is unknown at this time.