

Sodininkystė ir daržininkystė

Horticulture

Садоводство и овощеводство

Growth and yielding of the large cranberry *Vaccinium macrocarpon* Ait. fertilized with nitrogen and potassium

2. The quality of berries

**Aneta Ūwieczkowska,
Zdzisław Kawecki**

*University of Warmia and Mazury,
10-957 Olsztyn,
ul. Prawocheńskiego 21*

Vidmantas Stanys

*Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture
Babtai,
LT-4335 Lithuania
E-mail: institutas@lsvi.lt*

The results of a research on specific qualitative features of berries of the large cranberry cultivars 'Ben Lear', 'Pilgrim', 'Searles' and 'Stevens' grown on the artificially prepared peat solum obtained from highmoor peatbog in the conditions of north-eastern part of Poland (Olsztyn) are presented. The following features were examined: the mass of 100 berries, dry matter content, the content of saccharides, the content of organic acids and pectins.

The highest mass of berries was found in cv. 'Stevens' and the lowest in cv. 'Searles'. Application of nitrogen and potassium (10 kg/ha) increased the mass of berries. The content of dry matter varied depending on cultivars and nutrition. The highest content of dry matter and sugars was found in berries of cv. 'Searles'. Higher doses of fertilizers reduced the content of dry matter. The highest content of acids was found in berries of cv. 'Ben Lear' and the lowest in berries of cv. 'Searles'. Higher doses of N and K increased the content of acids in berries. Berries of cv. 'Pilgrim' contained the highest levels of pectins. Higher doses of nitrogen and potassium fertilizers had a positive effect on pectin accumulation.

Key words: large cranberry, nutrition, cultivars, mass of berries, dry matter, total sugars, acids, pectins

INTRODUCTION

Cranberries are regarded as a perfect raw material for various products, especially juice. An increasing demand for berries has been observed, particularly after reports of a team of American physicians stating that cranberry juice enhances urinary tract clearance and can be used to treat bladder infections [2, 7]. In 1989, a polymer that adheres to the thin cilia of bacteria and produces antiadhesive effects to the mucous connective tissue of the intestines and urinary bladder was isolated. It causes the ex-

cretion of bacteria with urine [1, 6, 13, 15]. Bomser [3] reports that cranberry juice has also an anticarcinogenic effect.

The objective of the current research was to evaluate the quality of cranberries grown on artificially prepared solum with the use of differentiated nitrogen and potassium nutrition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The detailed methodology related to the research was described in Part 1 of the paper. In Part 2, the

methods used for determination of qualitative features of berries are presented.

The mass of 100 berries was determined using a general laboratory balance. The berries were randomly sampled from the whole portion of each replicate of a particular experimental variant. Three tests of each replicate were performed.

The content of dry matter was determined by the method of drying. The samples were dried at 105 °C. The content of organic acids was determined by the Peterburski method. The results were multiplied by the coefficient of apple acid content. Total sugars were examined by the Luff-Schoorl method and pectins by the Moris method.

The figures obtained were statistically analysed with the use of the analysis of variance. The mean values were evaluated by the T-Tukey test at a significance level $p = 0.05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mass of the berries varied significantly depending on cultivars and levels of nitrogen and potas-

sium nutrition (Table 1). The mass of 100 berries in each cultivar was differentiated in particular years of the experiment. The value of this feature was by far the highest in cv. 'Stevens' (160.4 g) and the lowest in cv. 'Searles' (121.7 g). Another factor that significantly affected this value was nitrogen and potassium nutrition. The application of N and K fertilizers at 10 kg of each element resulted in the highest mass of 100 berries (144.1 g). Higher doses of nitrogen and potassium had no positive effect on the increase in the mass of berries. It was even lower than in control, but the difference was not significant. As the statistical analysis shows, the heaviest berries (154.5 g on average) were obtained in 1999. Significantly lighter berries were obtained in 1998 and 2000.

The content of dry matter varied by cultivar, nutrition and year (Table 2). Berries of all the cultivars contained the highest levels of dry matter in 1998 and 2000. The content of dry matter amounted to 11% per berry on average. The lowest content of dry matter was obtained by application of the highest doses of fertilizers, *i.e.* 20 kg per hecta-

Table 1. Effect of nitrogen and potassium nutrition on the mass of 100 berries of large cranberry in 1998–2000 (g)

Cultivar	Years	Control	N ₁₀ K ₁₀	N ₂₀ K ₂₀	Mean
		Years × cultivars × nutrition			Years × cultivars
'Ben Lear'	1998	130.4c	133.9c	118.1d	127.5d
	1999	140.2c	148.2b	148.1b	145.5c
	2000	118.3d	139.2c	114.2d	123.9d
'Pilgrim'	1998	126.3c	134.4c	119.9d	126.9d
	1999	162.4b	168.9a	176.2a	169.2b
	2000	141.7c	157.2b	129.5c	142.8d
'Searles'	1998	112.9d	131.4c	122.4c	122.2d
	1999	123.7c	118d	122.2c	121.3d
	2000	130.8c	115.3d	118.2d	121.4d
'Stevens'	1998	150.2b	143.8b	152.5b	148.8c
	1999	184.3a	186.2a	175.2a	181.9a
	2000	147.7b	153b	150.7b	150.5c
LSD _{0.05}		20.03			11.79
		Cultivars × nutrition			Cultivars
'Ben Lear'		129.6c	140.4b	126.8c	132.3c
'Pilgrim'		143.5b	153.5a	141.9b	146.3b
'Searles'		122.5c	121.6c	120.9c	121.7d
'Stevens'		160.7a	161.0a	159.5a	160.4a
LSD _{0.05}		9.63			5.27
		Years × nutrition			Years
	1998	130.0c	135.9b	128.2c	131.4b
	1999	152.7a	155.3a	155.4a	154.5a
	2000	134.6b	141.2b	128.2c	134.7b
LSD _{0.05}		7.91			5.29
		Nutrition			
LSD _{0.05}		139.1b	144.1a	137.3b	
		3.44			

Table 2. Effect of nitrogen and potassium nutrition on the content of dry matter in berries of large cranberry in 1998–2000 (%)

Cultivar	Years	Control	N ₁₀ K ₁₀	N ₂₀ K ₂₀	Mean
		Years × cultivars × nutrition			Years × cultivars
'Ben Lear'	1998	11.29c	11.01c	10.99c	11.10b
	1999	10.50d	10.44d	10.64d	10.53c
	2000	11.17c	10.19e	10.39d	10.58c
'Pilgrim'	1998	10.58d	10.60d	10.32e	10.50c
	1999	10.63d	10.78d	9.78e	10.40c
	2000	10.65d	10.21e	10.18e	10.35c
'Searles'	1998	11.27c	11.10c	11.08c	11.15b
	1999	11.34c	10.96c	11.20c	11.17b
	2000	11.99b	12.09a	11.40c	11.83a
'Stevens'	1998	11.60b	11.32c	11.71bv	11.54ab
	1999	10.23e	10.79d	10.02e	10.35c
	2000	12.53a	12.35a	11.04c	11.97a
LSD _{0.05}		0.462			0.281
		Cultivars × nutrition			Cultivars
'Ben Lear'		10.99b	10.55cv	10.67c	10.74b
'Pilgrim'		10.62c	10.53c	10.09d	10.41c
'Searles'		11.53a	11.38a	11.23b	11.38a
'Stevens'		11.45a	11.49a	10.92c	11.29a
LSD _{0.05}		0.222			
		Years × nutrition			Years
	1998	11.19b	10.01b	11.03b	11.07a
	1999	10.68c	10.74c	10.41d	10.61b
	2000	11.59a	11.21b	10.75c	11.18a
LSD _{0.05}		0.182			0.115
		Nutrition			
LSD _{0.05}		11.15a	10.99b	10.73c	
		0.079			

re each. The highest content of dry matter was obtained from the plots with no fertilizers applied.

Taking into account the factors applied during 3 years of the research, the highest content of dry matter was found in berries of *cv.* 'Stevens' in 2000 when 10 kg N and K per hectare was applied, and in control. Similar results were observed in *cv.* 'Searles' in the same year.

A research on six cranberry cultivars conducted by Elle [4] showed a positive correlation between the genotype of cultivars and some features of vegetative growth such as the number of flowers and berries per shoot and a negative correlation between the genotype and the number of seeds or the mass of berries.

The mass of berries varied significantly in different cultivars. The highest value of this feature was found in *cv.* 'Stevens'. Prange and DeEll report that the quality of yield is affected by the following factors: genotype, climate, mineral nutrition, water supply, cultivation techniques, diseases and pests and growth regulators.

It was revealed by the authors of the present paper that, apart from genotype, the mass of berries was most significantly affected by N and K nutrition at 10 kg. A limited demand of the large cranberry for nutrition was observed.

The content of dry matter determined in the berries of the cultivars was similar to that obtained by Fellers and Esselen [5]. In an experiment on nutrition of the blackcurrants conducted by Kawecki and Olszewski [8], an increase in dry matter was observed only after application of light doses of fertilizers, especially nitrogen.

The total content of sugars depended on the cultivar and on nitrogen and potassium nutrition (Table 3). The highest value of the feature was noted in *cv.* 'Searles' and the lowest in *cv.* 'Pilgrim' (4.65% and 3.96%, respectively). Among the nutrition variants applied, the most significant effect was achieved with 10 kg N and 10 kg K per hectare. The highest content of sugars (4.42% on average) was found at the same dose. The content of total sugars in berries was highly differentiated in particular years. The mean value in 2000 was significantly higher than in previous years and amounted to 4.43%.

The content of organic acids also varied in dependence on the cultivar and on the doses of fertilizers (Table 4). The highest content of acids (2.96%) was found in berries of *cv.* 'Ben Lear' and the lowest in *cv.* 'Searles' (2.60%). The heaviest doses of nitrogen and potassium (20 kg per hectare) increased the content of acids in berries as compared to the control and to the lighter doses. In 2000, berries accumulated less acids than in the previous years.

Table 3. Effect of nitrogen and potassium nutrition on the content of total sugars in berries of large cranberry in 1998–2000 (%)

Cultivar	Years	Control	N ₁₀ K ₁₀	N ₂₀ K ₂₀	Mean
Years × cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'	1998	4.04c	4.16b	4.05c	4.08c
	1999	3.69c	4.11c	4.33b	4.04c
	2000	4.14b	4.35b	3.75c	4.08c
'Pilgrim'	1998	4.04c	4.27b	3.84c	4.05c
	1999	3.84c	3.86c	3.27d	3.66d
	2000	4.04c	4.35b	4.16b	4.18c
'Searles'	1998	4.32b	4.78a	4.72a	4.61a
	1999	4.31b	4.8a	4.19b	4.43b
	2000	4.51b	4.97a	5.23a	4.90a
'Stevens'	1998	4.5b	4.41b	4.28b	4.40b
	1999	4.7a	4.46b	4.03c	4.40b
	2000	4.42b	4.54b	4.65b	4.54b
LSD _{0.05}			0.516		0.256
Cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'		3.96b	4.21b	4.04b	4.07c
'Pilgrim'		3.97b	4.16b	3.76c	3.96c
'Searles'		4.38b	4.85a	4.71a	4.65a
'Stevens'		4.54b	4.47b	4.32b	4.44b
LSD _{0.05}			0.248		0.114
Years × nutrition					
	1998	4.23b	4.41a	4.22b	4.28b
	1999	4.14b	4.31b	3.96c	4.13c
	2000	4.28b	4.55a	4.45a	4.43a
LSD _{0.05}			0.204		0.130
Nutrition					
LSD _{0.05}		4.21b	4.42a	4.21b	
			0.089		

The content of pectins in berries depended significantly on the cultivar and levels of nitrogen and potassium nutrition (Table 5). Berries of *cv.* Pilgrim contained considerably more pectins (0.36%) compared with other cultivars in which the content of pectins amounted to 0.31–0.32%. N and K nutrition at 20 kg per hectare had a favourable effect on the content of pectins. Its mean level amounted to 0.35%. The content of pectins in cultivars grown on the plots with no nitrogen and potassium nutrition was significantly lower. The mean value varied from 0.25 to 0.34%.

During the experiment, we found that the cultivar and nitrogen and potassium nutrition affected the content of dry matter, total sugars, acids and pectins in cranberries. Neither of the values related to the qualitative features and chemical composition of berries presented in the literature so far are discussed in relation to mineral nutrition. As Kulka and Rejowski report [10], mineral nutrition, especially full, causes an increase not only in the yield of most fruit plants, but also in the content of su-

Table 4. Effect of nitrogen and potassium nutrition on the content of acids converted into apple acid in berries of large cranberry in 1998–2000 (%)

Cultivar	Years	Control	N ₁₀ K ₁₀	N ₂₀ K ₂₀	Mean
Years × cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'	1998	3.32b	3.18b	3.61a	3.37a
	1999	2.86c	3.08c	2.94c	2.96b
	2000	2.36e	2.67d	2.63d	2.55c
'Pilgrim'	1998	2.91c	3.21c	2.7d	2.94b
	1999	2.90c	2.88c	2.86c	2.88b
	2000	2.59d	2.61d	2.67d	2.62c
'Searles'	1998	2.19f	2.01f	3.34b	2.51c
	1999	2.67d	2.86c	2.99c	2.84b
	2000	2.83d	2.22f	2.32f	2.46d
'Stevens'	1998	3.21b	2.76d	2.71d	2.89b
	1999	2.84cd	2.77d	2.8d	2.80c
	2000	2.28f	2.25f	2.59de	2.37d
LSD _{0.05}			0.224	0.101	
Cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'	2.85b		2.98a	3.06a	2.96a
'Pilgrim'	2.8b		2.90b	2.74c	2.81b
'Searles'	2.56d		2.36e	2.88b	2.60d
'Stevens'	2.78b		2.59d	2.70c	2.69c
LSD _{0.05}			0.108		0.045
Years × nutrition					
	1998	2.91b	2.79c	3.09a	2.93a
	1999	2.82b	2.90b	2.90b	2.87a
	2000	2.52d	2.44e	2.55d	2.50b
LSD _{0.05}			0.088		0.067
Nutrition					
	2.75b		2.71b	2.85a	
LSD _{0.05}			0.038		

gars and a slight decline in acid concentration. The quality of berries is mainly affected by nitrogen and potassium nutrition. Potassium increases the content of sugars. According to Kùssowski [9], nitrogen plays an important role in the process of fruit growth and affects the size of fruit. Low or medium content of potassium in soil has a positive impact on the accumulation of acids in berries and on the acidity of juice.

The content of total sugars in the cultivars studied varied from 3.96 to 4.65%. Nowiński [12] reports cranberries to contain 3–5% of sugars. According to Łojek [11], glucose and fructose prevail in the composition of saccharides. The concentration of saccharides in berries of the cultivars studied depended on the cultivar and nitrogen and potassium nutrition. Lower doses of fertilizers have favourable effects on the accumulation of saccharides as confirmed by Kùssowski [9]. He states that moderate doses of potassium affect the accumulation of saccharides in berries of various plant species.

Table 5. Effect of nitrogen and potassium nutrition on the content of pectins in berries of large cranberry in 1998–2000 (%)

Cultivar	Years	Control	N ₁₀ K ₁₀	N ₂₀ K ₂₀	Mean
Years × cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'	1998	0.24b	0.45a	0.28b	0.32a
	1999	0.26b	0.41a	0.23b	0.30a
	2000	0.25b	0.36a	0.31b	0.31a
'Pilgrim'	1998	0.34a	0.33b	0.43a	0.37a
	1999	0.32b	0.32b	0.36a	0.33a
	2000	0.37a	0.37a	0.41a	0.38a
'Searles'	1998	0.24b	0.33b	0.35a	0.31a
	1999	0.29b	0.31b	0.33b	0.31a
	2000	0.31b	0.36a	0.32b	0.33a
'Stevens'	1998	0.27b	0.25b	0.44a	0.32a
	1999	0.30b	0.25b	0.41a	0.32a
	2000	0.26b	0.28b	0.36a	0.30a
LSD _{0.05}			0.106		ns
Cultivars × nutrition					
'Ben Lear'	0.25c		0.41a	0.27c	0.31b
'Pilgrim'	0.34b		0.34b	0.40a	0.36a
'Searles'	0.28b		0.33b	0.33b	0.32b
'Stevens'	0.28b		0.26c	0.31b	0.31b
LSD _{0.05}			0.051		0.027
Years × nutrition					
	1998	0.27b	0.34a	0.38a	0.33a
	1999	0.29b	0.32b	0.33a	0.32a
	2000	0.30b	0.34a	0.35a	0.33a
LSD _{0.05}			0.042		ns
Nutrition					
	0.29c		0.34b	0.35a	
LSD _{0.05}			0.018		

Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly at $p = 0.05$.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The mass of 100 berries in the cultivars varied. The highest value of this feature was found in *cv.* 'Stevens' and the lowest – in *cv.* 'Searles'. Light doses of N and K fertilizers increased the mass of 100 berries.

2. The content of dry matter depended on the cultivar and nutrition. The highest content of dry matter was observed in berries of *cv.* 'Searles'. Higher doses of nitrogen and potassium decreased the content of dry matter in berries.

3. The highest concentration of saccharides was found in berries of *cv.* 'Searles' and the lowest in *cv.* 'Pilgrim'. Lighter doses of nitrogen and potassium fertilizers increased the accumulation of sugars.

4. The highest content of acids was observed in berries of *cv.* 'Ben Lear' and the lowest in *cv.* 'Sear-

les'. Higher doses of N and K fertilizers increased the content of acids in berries of all the cultivars.

5. The content of pectins varied depending on the cultivar and nitrogen and potassium doses. Berries of cv. 'Pilgrim' contained the highest levels of pectins. Higher doses of mineral fertilizers (20 kg N and 20 kg K per hectare) were most favourable for accumulation of pectins in berries of the cultivars studied.

Received
26 April 2003

References

1. Avorn J. Reduction of bacteriuria and pyuria after ingestion of cranberry juice // Journal of the American Medical Association. 1994. Vol. 271. N 10. P. 751–754.
2. Bodel P. T. et al. Cranberry juice and the antibacterial action of hippuric acid // Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine. 1959. Vol. 54. P. 881.
3. Bomser J. *In vitro* anticancer activity of fruit extracts from *Vaccinium* species // Planta Medica. 1996. Vol. 62. N 3. P. 212–216.
4. Elle E. Reproductive trade-offs in genetically distinct clones of *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, the American cranberry // Oecologia. 1996. Vol. 107. N 1. P. 61–70.
5. Fellers C. R., Esselen W. B. Cranberries and cranberry products // University of Massachusetts, Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin. 1955. 481.
6. Howell A. B. et al. Inhibition of the Adherence of P-fimbriated *Escherichia coli* to uroepithelial-cell surfaces by proanthocyanidin extracts from cranberries // New England Journal of Medicine. 1998. Vol. 339. P. 1085–1086.
7. Kahn D. H. et al. Effects of cranberry juice on urine // Journal of the American dietetic association. 1967. Vol. 51. P. 251.
8. Kawecki Z., Olszewski H. Wpływ zróżnicowanego nawożenia azotowego na wzrost i plonowanie porzeczki czarnej // Roczn. Nauk Roln. S. A. Ū. 1978. Vol. 103. N 3. P. 93–104.
9. Kiścoski W. Nawożenie roślin sadowniczych. Warszawa: PWRiL, 1972.
10. Kulka K., Rejowski A. Biochemia. Wyd. ART, Olsztyn. 1993–1994.
11. Ūojko R. E. Konserwujem frukty i owozszczy. Mińsk: Ūazaruk, 1995.
12. Nowiński M. Dzieje roślin i upraw ogrodniczych. Warszawa: PWRiL, 1977.
13. Ofek I. et al. Anti-*Escherichia coli* adhesion activity of cranberry and blueberry juices // New England Journal of Medicine. 1991. Vol. 324. N 22. P. 1599.
14. Prange R. K., DeEll J. R. Preharvest factors affecting postharvest quality of berry crops // Proceedings of the colloquium: Effect of preharvest factors on postharvest quality. Montreal, Canada, 1 August 1995. HortScience. 1997. Vol. 32. N 5. P. 824–830.
15. Zafriri D. i in. Inhibitory activity of cranberry juice on adherence of type 1 and P fimbriated *Escherichia coli* to eucaryotic cells // Antimicrobial Agents Chemotherapy. 1989. Vol. 33. P. 92–98.

Aneta Ūwieczkowska, Zdzisław Kawecki,
Vidmantas Stanys

STAMBIAUOGĖS SPANGUOLĖS (*VACCINIUM MACROCARPON* AIT.) AUGIMAS IR DERĖJIMAS, TRĖDIANT AZOTO IR KALIO TRĖDOMIS 2. VAISIŖ KOKYBĖ

S a n t r a u k a

Darbe pateikti stambiavaisiŖ spanguoliŖ 'Ben Lear', 'Pilgrim', 'Searles' ir 'Stevens', auginamŖ ŖiaurĖs RytŖ Lenkijos sŖlygomis, aukŖtapelkiŖ durpiŖ pagrindu parengtoje dirbtinĖje dirvoje, vaisiŖ kokybĖs tyrimo duomenys. Ŗvertinta 100 vaisiŖ masĖ, nustatytas sausŖj medŖiagŖ, cukrŖ, organiniŖ rŭgŖiŖ ir pektinŖ kiekis.

Azoto ir kalio (10 kg/ha) trĖdos didino vaisiŖ masĖ. Parodyta, kad didŖiausiai vaisiais pasiŖymĖjo veislĖ 'Stevens', o smulkiausiai – 'Searles'. SausŖj medŖiagŖ kiekis vaisiuose priklausĖ nuo veislĖs savybiŖ ir trĖdimo. Daugiausiai sausŖj medŖiagŖ ir cukrŖ nustatyta veislĖs 'Searles' vaisiuose. Gausiau trĖdiant maŖĖjo sausŖj medŖiagŖ kiekis. DidŖiausiai organiniŖ rŭgŖiŖ kiekis nustatytas veislĖs 'Ben Lear', maŖiausiai – veislĖs 'Searles' vaisiuose. Gausiau trĖdiant azoto ir kalio trĖdomis didĖjo organiniŖ rŭgŖiŖ kiekis. Daugiausia pektinŖ nustatyta veislĖs 'Pilgrim' vaisiuose. DidesnĖs kalio ir azoto trĖdŖ dozĖs skatino pektinŖ sintezŖ.

RaktaŖodŖiai: cukrai, organinĖs rŭgŖys, pektinai, stambiavaisĖ spanguolĖ, trĖdimas, derlingumas

Анета Свечковска, Здислав Кавецки,
Видмантас Станис

РОСТ И УРОЖАЙНОСТЬ КЛЮКВЫ КРУПНОПЛОДНОЙ (*VACCINIUM MACROCARPON* AIT.), УДОБРЯЕМОЙ АЗОТОМ И КАЛИЕМ 2. КАЧЕСТВО ПЛОДОВ

Р е з ю м е

В работе представлены результаты исследований некоторых качественных признаков плодов клюквы крупноплодной сортов 'Ben Lear', 'Pilgrim', 'Searles' и 'Stevens', выращиваемых на почве, искусственно приготовленной из торфа верхового торфяника, в условиях Северо-Восточной Польши (г. Ольштын). Определяли массу 100 плодов, содержание сухого вещества, сахаридов, органических кислот и пектинов.

Констатировали, что наибольшей массой плодов отличался сорт 'Stevens', а наименьшей – сорт 'Searles'. Азот и калий (10 кг/га) увеличивали массу плодов. Содержание сухого вещества зависело от сорта и удобрения. Больше всего сухого вещества и сахаридов содержали плоды сорта 'Searles'. При увеличении доз удобрения уменьшалось содержание сухого вещества. Наибольшее содержание органических кислот установлено в плодах сорта 'Ben Lear', а наименьшее – в плодах сорта 'Searles'. С увеличением дозы азота и калия увеличивалось содержание органических кислот. Наибольшее содержание пектинов установлено в плодах сорта 'Pilgrim'. Большие дозы азото-калийного удобрения оказывали положительное влияние на накопление пектинов.

Ключевые слова: клюква крупноплодная, удобрение, сорта, фенофазы, морфология растений, урожайность