

## The new Zaiger Genetics (USA) and Summerland R.S. (Canada) varieties

**B. Guitton, E. Remy, P. Court, G. Guerra Perez, M. Hilaire, J. Darnaud, A. Darnaud**

*PS Research and Development Department, International Plant Selection, Montélimar, France*

Cherry remains a high added value species which benefits of a strong development potential for the next coming years. Indeed, viability and profitability of the cherry market is strengthened by performing varieties answering to the increase in the orchard management intensity and need for long distance shipment, opening up new markets. Climate change is one of the highest challenge for our selection strategy, considered to identify cherry varieties adapted to the different production area.

International Plant Selection (IPS), as fruit tree varieties editor, has been collaborating for about 60 years with the most important breeders, Summerland (British Columbia, Canada) and Zaiger's Genetics (California, US), whose breeding programs have developed an international reputation for the superior quality varieties they released. These breeders have made a significant contribution to the cherry varieties grown throughout the world, such as Lapins and Sweetheart®. Working with recognized breeders, IPS offers to the cherry market a selection of very high quality varieties, adapted to various climatic conditions and extended ripening season.

New cherry selections undergo three levels of testing before being released as named cultivars: pre-selection by breeders, testing at IPS research stations (France and Spain), and grower testing all over Europe, representing the main cherry growing regions (from Middle East to meridional countries). This extended evaluation network provides valuable information on varieties performances and environmental adaptation. IPS selection strategy is based on fruit and agronomic traits: self-compatibility, fruit size and quality, flesh firmness, cracking resistance, early onset of bearing and high yields. Most promising varieties are then screened for storage behavior and detailed sensory evaluation.

Released varieties are protected with CPVO certification/trademarks, propagated and developed by nurseries (under licensing agreement) and growers. Resulting from our last selection years, IPS present a selection of varieties with very high development potential for the cherry market.



### **Royal Tioga (introduced on 13/12/2008)**

Origin: Zaiger's Genetics, California.

Self-fertile and very productive variety outstanding for the early ripening period (1-3 days after Burlat) for its large fruit size (28-30 mm) and very high firmness (78 Durofel) providing good post-harvest shelf-life. Early flowering variety, low to medium chilling requirements (350 hours) with good adaptation to southern area.



**Royal Hermione® (EU n°42692 the 07/03/2016)**

Origin: Zaiger's Genetics, California.  
Self-incompatible (S3-S9) variety with early blossom (one week before Burlat). The maturity is moderately early (7 days after Burlat) and the productivity is important and regular with fast fruit bearing. The shiny dark red fruit is very large (30 mm) with a homogenous caliber, sweet flavor (20 °Brix).



**Royal Helen (EU n°39538 the 23/02/2015)**

Origin: Zaiger's Genetics, California.  
Late maturing variety (7 days before Sweetheart®) interesting for its medium chilling requirements (750 hours), self-fertility and high productivity. It allows to obtain very thick calipers (30-32 mm), with firm consistency and very good flavor (20-22 °Brix).



**Samba® (EU n°1650 the 30/08/1995)**

Origin: Summerland, Canada.  
Variety developed in Europe more than 20 years ago, with very good results in Europe. The fruit is very attractive because of its heart shape, good firmness (DUROFEL 65-75), large and homogenous caliber (26-28 mm), long peduncle with good post-harvest hold, good commercial value can be achieved for this variety. The variety is self-incompatible and ripens about 3 days after Summit..



**Royal Lafayette® (EU n°20429 the 25/11/14 in process)**

Origin: Zaiger's Genetics, California.  
Early mid-season variety ripening 15 days after Burlat, very productive and regular with skin bright purplish-red fruits of large size (30 mm) and good cracking tolerance. The flavor is very good and sweet (20 °Brix). The variety is self-incompatible (S1-S3), semi early blossom and fruit bearing is fast.