Future of Raspberry Breeding in Scotland

Commercial funding between 1993 and 2000 saw the breeding programme focus upon the development of machine-harvestable varieties for processing. The fresh market sector represents an area of potential growth in both field and ‘out of season’ contexts. SCRI possesses a broad base of Rubus germplasm and selection for these and many other traits is possible.

Pest and Disease

Key pests and pathogens of raspberries in Scotland:
- Large raspberry aphid, *Amphoraphora idaei.*
- Raspberry beetle, *Byturus tomentosus.*
- Raspberry cane midge, *Resseliella theobaldi.*

*Phytophthora* accounts for ~20% of tonnage lost in Scotland.
- ~25% of the crossing programme is dedicated to breeding for resistance/tolerance to *Phytophthora.*
- Genotypes with putative resistance are currently undergoing further evaluation for fruit quality.

New Cultivars

Under commercial funding from SSFG Ltd, nineteen breeding lines, with various characteristics were selected as potential new cultivars. After extensive field trialling at SCRI, four selections have been identified as most promising, with excellent fruit quality, flavour and yields competitive with current commercial cultivars. These four will be released as cultivars in the near future.

The Breeding Programme

- This highly targeted and accelerated programme is based on recurrent selection.
- The MRS breeding programme focuses on producing varieties primarily for the processing market, through improving fruit quality, yield and resistance to pest and disease.

Mechanical Harvesting

Many Scottish growers have adapted current cultivars and management practices to machine harvesting. This is primarily a result of:
- A loss in labour force due to a breakdown in the tradition of local fruit picking.
- Fierce competition from Eastern European countries forcing growers to keep prices low.

Funding

MRS
Scottish Soft Fruit Growers Ltd - funded the programme 1993-2000
Horticultural Development Council
Scottish Society for Crop Research
SEERAD - funds the science underpinning the breeding work as part of SCRI’s core research programme.

Improvement of raspberry cultivars in Scotland

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