

A new Japanese pear cultivar, 'Hokushin'

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Summary

A new cultivar, 'Hokushin', was developed by selection from 75 progenies of 'Shinseiki' pollinated by 'Hokkan' at the Hokkaido National Agricultural Experiment Station (currently named National Agricultural Research Center for Hokkaido Region) in Sapporo in 1967. It was given the strain number '67-17-22' in 1980, and adaptability trials of this cultivar were conducted in pear-growing areas of Hokkaido. As a result of the trials, it was named 'Hokushin' and registered as 'Nashi Norin No. 17' by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in September 1995.

The characteristics of the cultivar 'Hokushin' are as follows:

1. The tree figure is medium open, vigorous and productive. It tends to be upright in the early stage of growth and then gradually spreads. The leaves are ovate-shape and of medium size with small serrations. The flowering time is from mid to late May, the same as that of 'Hokkan'. Fruit set is good when pollinated with main cultivars except for 'Chojuro'.

2. The fruit is relatively large in size, with an average weight 326g, and has a uniform round-shape. The fruit is attractive, with a yellowish-green ground color. The flesh is white, tender, fine-grained, juicy and with good texture. The sugar content is about 12 in the refractometer index, and malic acid content is 0.23%.

3. In Sapporo, the fruit ripens relatively early, between late September and early October. The time of ripening is the same or only about 3 days later than that of 'Hokkan' but 3 weeks earlier than that of 'Mishirazu'.

The fruit keeps well for about 35 days in common storage and for about 75 days in cold storage.

4. 'Hokushin' seems to be relatively resistant to cold. It is therefore expected to be suitable for pear-growing areas in central and southern Hokkaido.

5. 'Hokushin' is fairly resistant to common pear disease. There is very little fruit cracking in normal year, but fruit cracking occurs when there is heavy preharvest rainfall.

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