

Enjoy new mouth-watering ber

Thar Sevika and Thar Bhubhraj were released in 2007 at the Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner. Thar Sevika yields 65-70q/ha, Thar bhubhraj a selection from local material of bhusavar area of Bharatpur district of Rajasthan yields 70-75 q/ha. These varieties have the ability to tolerate extreme of temperatures (2.5-48°C). Both are early-maturing, suitable for staggered harvesting and practically free from powdery mildew under arid conditions.



Both varieties are ideal for cultivating in all ber-growing areas

BER is an important crop of 21st century, hence its breeding programme was initiated with the main objective to develop varieties resistant to powdery mildew fruit fly, and tolerance to low temperature injury. Therefore, Two new varieties have been developed.

BER VARIETIES

Thar Sevika

It is an early -maturing variety with a semi-spreading growth habit. Its fruits are ready for harvesting in last week of December. Fruits are attractive, greenish yellow and juicy. Average number of fruits/branchlet is 11 and fruit size is 4.35 cm× 2.80 cm. Average fruit weight is 25 g and stone weight 1.35 g, flesh thickness 1.1, cm. TSS 24%, total sugar 5.02%, ascorbic acid content 88 mg/100g fruit and acidity 0.60%. Fruits after consumption do not cause throat soaring, which is common in other cultivars. Average fruit yield is 65-70 q/ha. The shelf-life of fruits under room temperature (20-23°C) is five days and can be kept fresh up to 12 days in refrigerator. It is free from powdery mildew and have low incidence of *Alternaria* rot.

Thar Bhubhraj

Thar Bhubhraj is a selection from local material of

Bhusavar area of Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. It has an upright growth habit and has the ability to withstand extremes of temperatures of 2.5 to 48.0° C. It is also an early-maturing variety. The fruits mature by end of December-to first week of January. Fruits do not ripe at one time and hence are suited for staggered harvesting. Fruits are attractive and very juicy. Average number of fruits/branchlet is 18, fruit and stone weight is 27 and 1.9 g respectively. Fruit size (4.35 × 2.80 cm). Flesh thickness 1.0 cm, TSS 23% , total sugar 4.29%, ascorbic acid content 60 mg/100 g fruit, acidity 0.80% and dry matter content about 20%. Average fruit yield is 70-75 q/ ha. It is free from powdery mildew.

SUMMARY

Both Thar Sevika and Thar Bhubhraj are suited for cultivation in arid tracts of the country. The cultivation practices of these varieties are similar to other commercial ber varieties.

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