

SARDI – Cherry Breeding Program

Sweet Cherry Selection Descriptors

‘Sir Tom’

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)
Lenswood Centre

‘Sir Tom’ is a superior quality late season, fresh market cherry variety featuring resistance to rain cracking and large size.



General Information

Parentage:	Black Douglas X Stella
Fruit size:	Extremely Large
Shape:	Cordate
Skin:	Mahogany
Juice:	Pink
Eating quality:	Good
Stone size:	Intermediate
Cropping:	Intermediate
Pollination:	Self-fertile
Maturity:	Late
TSS level:	18-21%
Firmness:	Firm
Stem length	Long
Full Bloom:	7 days post Stella
Rain cracking:	Slightly susceptible

The purpose of this Descriptor Guide is to provide interested parties with the information required to make an informed decision on the planting of ‘Sir Tom’.

Trees of ‘Sir Tom’ are available commercially through ANFIC nurseries. ‘Sir Tom’ is protected under Plant Breeders Rights; a signed non-propagation agreement is required prior to delivery.

All data presented in this guide refers to trees grown at the Lenswood Research Centre. Commercial plantings throughout the Australia are currently yielding and information that may be more relevant to particular localities may be available from other growers or local nurseries.

SARDI has limited data on the compatibility and performance of ‘Sir Tom’ on different rootstocks some of which will be untested.

Characteristics Tree: type normal, vigour very strong, habit semi-upright, branching medium. One-year-old shoot: number of lenticels medium, position of vegetative bud in relation to shoot adpressed. Young shoot: anthocyanin colouration of tip medium. Leaf blade: length long, width narrow, ratio length/width large, green colour of upper side dark. Leaf: length of petiole medium, ratio length of petiole/length of blade medium. Petiole: nectaries present, colour of nectaries light red. Flower: diameter of corolla (completely opened) large. Fruit: size very large, shape cordate, pistil end pointed, colour of skin dark red to blackish, size of lenticels on skin medium, number of lenticels on skin medium, colour of juice pink, colour of flesh red, firmness firm, acidity low, sweetness high, juiciness medium, length of stalk long, abscission layer between stalk and fruit absent, thickness of stalk thick. Stone: size medium, shape (in ventral view) broad elliptic, size relative to fruit medium. Time of flowering: medium. Time of fruit maturity: late.

Origin and Breeding Controlled pollination: seed parent ‘Black Douglas’ x pollen parent ‘Stella’.The seed parent was characterised by late maturing, firm, large, black skin coloured fruit with slight susceptibility to rain induced cracking and self-incompatibility.The pollen parent was characterised by medium maturing, medium firmness, large, dark red skin coloured fruit with high susceptibility to rain induced cracking and self-compatibility. (Source: Plant Varieties Journal Quarter Four 2001, Vol.14, No. 4. Eds Hossain T, Hulse N, Prakash K, Costa H, Waterhouse D, Dawes-Read K, Blazey B. Dept Ag. Fish. For. Aust. ACT. Australia. Website: www.ipaustralia.gov.au/pbr)

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