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Breeders Survey & Apple Variety Choices Based on National Household-level Data

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Outline of Presentation

- Summary statistics
- Marker assisted technology
- Relative importance of genetic traits for five crops
- Apple variety choices based on national household-level data







Summary Statistics

Breeders Web Survey

qualtrics.com[•]

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1. What crop(s) are you currently breeding? Please check all that apply.						
Strawberry	Plum Scion					
Apple Scion	Plum Rootstock					
Apple Rootstock	Apricot Scion					
Pear Scion	Apricot Rootstock					
Pear Rootstock	Almond Scion					
Tart Cherry Scion	Almond Rootstock					
Tart Cherry Rootstock	Blackberry					
Sweet Cherry Scion	Red Raspberry					
Sweet Cherry Rootstock	Black Raspberry					
Peach Scion	Rose					
Peach Rootstock						

2. What are the target production region(s)? E.g., U.S. Pacific Northwest

Rosaceae breeders
population in US and
Canada60Breeders who responded41Usable responses39



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What crop(s) are you currently breeding?



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What type of organization are you working at as a breeder?



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Importance of interested parties that influence your decision (1-10 scale, mean value)

Other, please specify: Producers' needs **Consumers' needs/preferences** Intended use of the crop **Own experience** Wholesalers' needs Marketers' feedback Other, please specify: Experiences of colleagues/other breeders Nursery feedback **Retailers' feedback** Funding agency Available premiums

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Challenges faced when determining priorities(1-10 scale, mean value)



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Other, please specify:

Lack of consistent /standardized information on genetic material

Lack of genetic material

Uncertainty if variety being developed would be commercially viable

Lack of consistent/standardized information on methods

Separate short-term from long-term needs

Difficult to find consensus across interested parties

Poor communication with interested parties

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Challenges faced when implementing priorities (1-10 scale, mean value)

Other, please specify: **Funding availability** Time of senior investigator/staff Labor/staff availability **Trait heritability Genetic material availability** Genetic markers availability **Genetic variation** Growing conditions at research farm Lack of facilities Land availability









Marker Assisted Technology

Use marker assisted technology



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Reason for using marker-assisted breeding technology





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Reasons for NOT using markerassisted breeding technology









Relative Importance of Genetic Traits for Five Crops

Highest ranked traits: Apple

Apple Scion			Apple Rootstock			
Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	
Fruit crispness	5.00	96.40	Bearing precocity	5.00	96.00	
Fruit juiciness	5.00	96.00	Dwarfing	5.00	96.00	
Consistent quality during storage	5.00	88.00	Fire blight	5.00	96.00	
Shelf-life	5.00	87.00	Productivity	5.00	95.00	
Acid/sugar balance	4.75	84.50	Plant vigor	5.00	95.00	
Flavor	4.75	79.25	Root rot	5.00	95.00	
Storage disorders	4.60	89.20	Winter hardiness	4.00	78.00	
Fruit firmness	4.60	79.20	Rooting ability	4.00	71.00	
Fire blight	4.60	69.00	Production consistency	4.00	70.00	
Sweetness	4.40	71.20	Suckering	4.00	59.00	

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Highest ranked traits: Sweet and Tart Cherry

Sweet Cherry	Scion	Tart Cherry Scion				
Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name Rank Like			
Fruit firmness	5.00	100.00	Fruit firmness	5.00	100.00	
Fruit size	5.00	100.00	Fruit shape	5.00	100.00	
Powdery mildew	5.00	96.00	Fruit uniformity	5.00	100.00	
Extended harvest season	5.00	89.00	Pit shape and size	5.00	100.00	
Self fertility	5.00	89.00	Pit splitting and fragments	5.00	100.00	
Skin color	5.00	78.00	Machine harvest ability	5.00	100.00	
Resistance to frost injury	5.00	73.00	Graft compatibility	5.00	100.00	
Other disease-viral	5.00	44.00	Production consistency	5.00	100.00	
Flavor	4.00	80.00	Skin color	5.00	56.00	
Fruit juiciness	4.00	50.00	Flesh color	5.00	55.00	

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Highest ranked traits: Peach

		Peach Scion		
	Trait Name		Rank	Likelihood
	Fruit firmness		4.88	92.25
<	Fruit uniformity		4.75	85.88
	Fruit shape		4.71	83.29
<	Fruit size		4.63	88.75
	Production consistency		4.63	87.50
	Sweetness		4.63	76.38
	Flavor		4.60	82.60
<	Productivity		4.57	89.57
	Heat tolerance		4.57	70.57
	Soluble solids(Brix)		4.50	83.25





Highest ranked traits: Strawberry

	Strawberry		
	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood
	Flavor	4.89	94.56
	Productivity	4.75	88.50
<	Shelf-life	4.67	83.89
<	Fruit size	4.60	88.70
<	Skin color	4.56	88.33
	Extended harvest season	4.50	74.00
	Production consistency	4.50	71.60
	Fruit firmness	4.40	86.20
	Shipping ability	4.33	81.78
	Root rot	4.33	76.00

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Highest ranked traits: Other berries

Black Raspbe		Blackberry			Red Raspberry			
Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood
Flavor	5.00	100.00	Winter hardiness	5.00	89.00	Fruit firmness	4.83	92.83
Productivity	5.00	100.00	Thornless	4.75	99.50	Flavor	4.80	88.20
Skin color	4.50	89.00	Seediness	4.67	78.33	Drupelet cohesion	4.50	85.67
Production consistency	4.50	88.50	Fruit firmness	4.50	93.00	Fruit size	4.50	84.50
Plant vigor	4.50	88.00	Flavor	4.50	92.75	Fruit uniformity	4.50	82.83
Seediness	4.50	84.50	Sweetness	4.50	90.25	Productivity	4.40	84.80
Thornless	4.50	75.00	Production consistency	4.50	90.00	Shipping ability	4.40	79.20
Machine harvest ability	4.50	58.00	Soluble solids (Brix)	4.50	89.25	Shelf-life	4.40	78.00
Fruit firmness	4.00	85.50	Titratable acidity	4.50	87.25	Winter hardiness	4.33	62.67
Fruit juiciness	4.00	79.50	Drupelet size	4.50	74.00	Skin color	4.20	76.60

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Highest ranked traits: Other crops

Apricot Scion			Plum Scio		Rose			
Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood	Trait Name	Rank	Likelihood
Fruit firmness	5.00	92.00	Productivity	5.00	90.67	Graft compatibility	5.00	93.00
Sweetness	5.00	90.00	Soluble solids (Brix)	5.00	89.33	Rose black spot	5.00	100.00
Titratable acidity	5.00	90.00	Sweetness	5.00	61.33	Extended bloom season	5.00	96.50
Soluble solids (Brix)	5.00	89.00	Fruit firmness	4.67	89.00	Winter hardiness	5.00	82.50
Flavor	5.00	85.00	Flavor	4.67	89.00	Other disease - fungal	5.00	65.00
Aromatics/volatiles	5.00	84.00	Fruit size	4.67	81.33	Productivity	5.00	42.50
extended harvest season	5.00	83.00	Production consistency	4.67	80.67	Plant architecture	4.50	75.00
Heat tolerance	5.00	58.00	Extended harvest season	4.67	74.00	Plant vigor	4.50	55.00
Pre-harvest dropping	5.00	28.00	Pre-harvest dropping	4.50	57.50	Bearing precocity	4.50	30.00
рН	5.00	25.00	Storage disorders	4.50	50.00	Production consistency	4.50	0.00

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Apple Variety Choices Based on National Household-level Data

What was done?

 Combine prices, household demographics, and state dependence variables, as well as regional and seasonal information to analyze household apple variety choices and purchases.





Price and income elasticities

•Red Delicious appear to be more price sensitive than other varieties

•Higher income consumers purchase fewer apples

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- Possible substitution effect with other fruits?





Age of head of household

 Households with older heads are less likely to buy Granny Smith apples

- Crisp texture when eaten raw?



Photo courtesy of Kate Evans

•Quantities of Red Delicious and Gala are positively affected by age

- Younger consumers may be more open to new varieties







Kids present in household

 Households with children are more likely to buy RD, GS, and GD varieties

College educated head of household

•Higher education households less likely to buy RD and GD varieties

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•Higher education positively affects the quantity purchased of all varieties







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