

New apple and pear varieties: The success story of *Kanzi*®.

After *Greenstar*® cv.*Nicogreen* (*Delbarestival x Granny*), *Kanzi*® cv.*Nicoter* (*Gala Must x Braeburn*) is the second new apple variety that the Better3Fruit Company of Belgium has introduced worldwide. Of course, it has been the Netherlands that at first believed in this new Belgian variety, but for the next season *Kanzi*® will be absolutely the most planted in Belgium.

The queer thing about it is that the *Pink Lady*® growing countries, like Italy (South-Tyrol), Australia and South Africa, go with interest for *Kanzi*®.

New apple varieties in 2007

Kanzi® and *Jazz*™ are the two new names in the apple vocabulary, and two varieties with the same cross-parents and two varieties with a very high commercialisation potential.

Table 1: New apple variety situation in the Netherlands (2007)

<i>Kanzi</i> ®	330 ha
<i>Junami</i> ® cv. <i>Milwa</i> (<i>Idared x Maigold/Elstar</i>)	245 ha
<i>Rubens</i> ® (<i>Gala x Elstar</i>)	158 ha
<i>Wellant</i> ® (From the Netherlands)	29ha
<i>Braeburn</i>	70ha
Total	847 ha

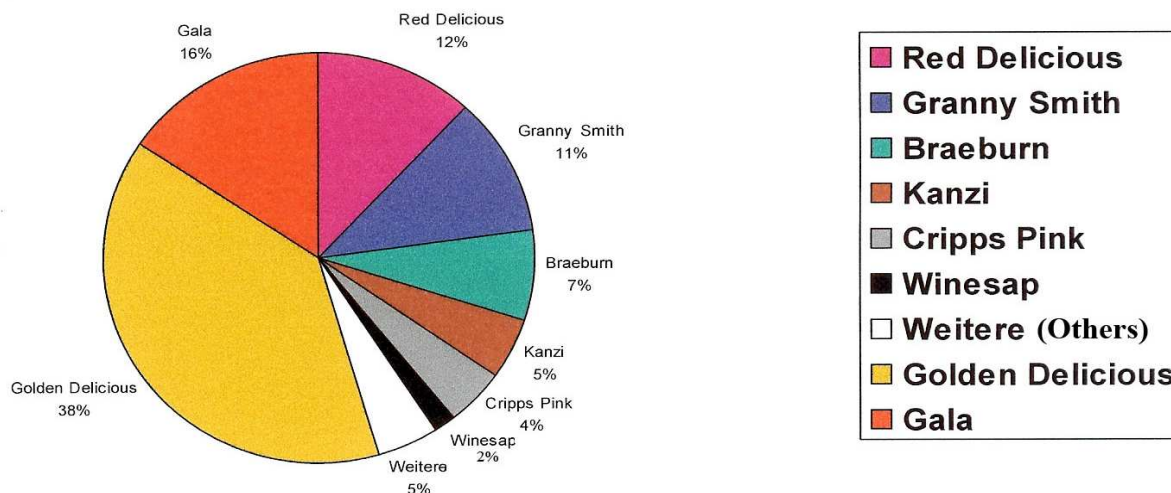
Table 2: New apple variety situation in Belgium 2007

<i>Kanzi</i> ®	320,000 trees	160 ha
<i>Greenstar</i> ®	297,000 trees	149 ha
<i>Belgica</i> (From Belgium)	220,000 trees	110 ha
<i>Rubens</i> ®	46,000 trees	23 ha
<i>Junami</i> ®	75,000 trees	38 ha
Total	911,000 trees	480 ha

3. South Tyrol (Italy)

Kanzi® with 4.6 % of news plantings as well as *Junami*® are now firmly on the South Tyrolean variety list. *Fuji*, which was a promising variety for South Tyrol has been pushed back to a modest 1.3% and now on the list of small complementary varieties.

Table 3: New plantings in South Tyrol - variety list



Source: Land registry O.G - VOG and VIP

New pear varieties 2007

There is no clear line of pear variety renovation. The majority of producers, nursery people traders and supermarkets believe in a red-blush pear. But the list of requirements is long. The new variety must be crisp, juicy, attractive, evenly pyriform, sweet, productive, with good storehouse capacity and good shelf-life. Not unimportant is that a variety must be resistant to fire blight. For this reason we have lost so many excellent pear varieties in the last 15 years.

Another line is to cross European pears with Nashi's like *Nijiseiki* or *Shinseiki*. Prof. Jacob, Prof. Braun and Dr. Kruger (*University of Geisenheim, Germany*) showed us their new crosses on September the 12th 2007. Many of these are crosses with *Nijiseiki*. Other German institutes go for crosses with *Forelle*. The first target is to go for a better colour and a better taste. Producing a better size and a better crop is maybe no longer the most important goal. A little bit more than 10 years ago a group of French nurserymen started up a breeders club. They are now on the first results by pears. .

In the last 10 years the group of pear varieties became smaller and smaller and each country goes for one or two well-adapted varieties. For the Netherlands and Belgium that is *Conference*; for Portugal *Rocha*; for France *Williams BC*, *Guyot* and *Conference*; and for Spain *Conference* and *Blanquilla*. The variety innovation is all nearly focused on red pears. Only France goes for a more rustic type named *Angelys* (*Doyenné d'Hiver x Doyenné du Comice*).

New pears in the Netherlands

It was a Mr. Joop Van Dooren that collected a number of new hybrids, mutations, strains and clonal selections; *Sweet Sensation* (a red *Comice* mutation) is the first candidate from this list in the Netherlands and in Belgium.

List of new varieties for the Netherlands:

- *Sweet Sensation*: A red *Comice* mutation
- *Gold Sensation*: (*Madame Verte x Beurre Bosc*) - called "The Ugly" in the UK
- *Xenia*: cv. *Nojabrskaja* (Moldavia) *Thriomphe de Vienne x.....?*
- *Elliot*TM: UC Davis (USA) - a Fire Blight resistant russet pear with 30% red blush

Belgium:

- *Corina*: *Conference cv.Saels* - a early ripening *Conference* strain
- *Sweet Sensation*
- *Concorde*: (*Doyenné du Comice x Conference*)
- *Dicolor*: (*Nordhauser Winterforelle x Williams*) - susceptible to Fireblight

Germany

- *Condo*: (*Conference x Comice*) - the fruit is closer to *Conference* than *Comice* but distinct.
- *Gerburg*: (*Clapps Liebling x Nordhauser Winterforelle*)
- *Eckehardt*: (*Nordhauser Winterforelle x Clapp's Lieblig*)
- *Uta*: (*Madame Verte x Beurre Bosc*)
- *Thimo*: (*Nordhauser Winterforelle x Madame Verte*)
- *Red Forelle*: Red *Forelle* mutation

France:

The variety *Passecrassanne* totally disappear years ago as a result of fireblight (*Erwinia Amylovora*) and *Angelys* is the new rustic winter variety.

New pears:

- *Angelys x NY 10.355* - not susceptible for pear psylla
- *Angelys x Navara* - not susceptible for pear scab

Italy:

- *Carmen*: Red blush, precocious, good size and taste

Czech Republic:

- *Dicolor*
- *Amfora*
- *Milka*
- *Uta*
- *Erika*

Conclusion:

This list is absolutely incomplete, but it was only the intention to give some indication to the planting trends in Belgium, the Netherlands and some other European countries.

All in all, on the whole fireblight remains the biggest menace.

We look out for your remarks or recommendations on this paper and remain with best regards,
Jef De Coster