

Blackcurrants in the Lublin region. Visit of IBA representatives

Rafał Szeleźniak

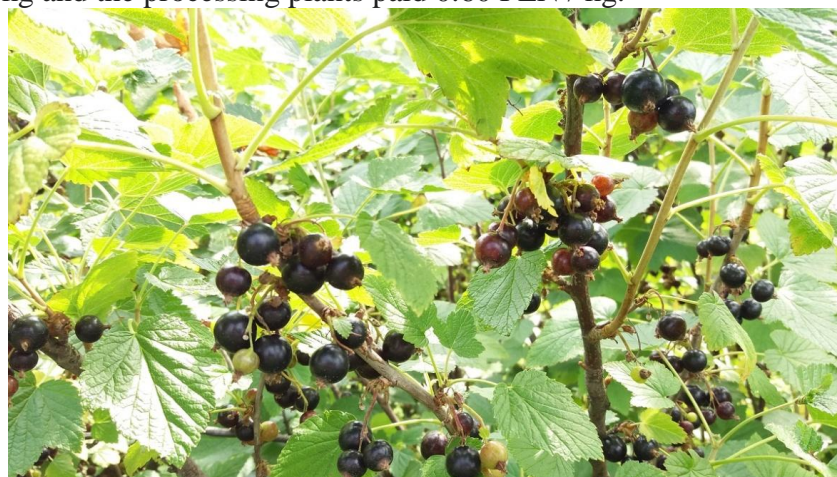
July 13, 2017

Lubelszczyzna is a Polish black currant growing area. Visiting this plantation allows us to evaluate how this season promises to be. On this occasion, representatives of the International Blackcurrant Association (IBA), were present at the event, which was hosted by the International Blackcurrant Association (IBA) from 27-29 June. They visited the plantations located near Lublin and Nałęczów, and also visited the company Weremczuk, producing fruit harvesters soft.

Frosts reduced yields ...

The first visited farm belongs to Zbigniew Kopiński, a member of the National Association of Black Currant Growers. It has been cultivating this species for 36 years. It has a farm located in Drzewce Kolonia near Nałęczów, where the blackcurrant grows on 35 hectares, red on 5 hectares, and gooseberry on 4 hectares. In 2006 he and his neighbors formed a group of fruit and vegetable producers Ribes-Pol. At the time of its establishment, it had 5 members and had a total of 55 hectares of plantations. Today the group consists of 6 members and produces currants on an area of 120 hectares.

As reported by the Zbigniew Kopiński delegation, the activity within the group of producers allowed the members to obtain significant benefits, eg in the form of purchasing machines for harvesting, loading and transport (eg Weremczuk self-propelled harvester, semi-trailer tractor). But association is not popular among the surrounding farmers and fruit producers. He stressed that there was no problem selling fruit, but prices for currants were unsatisfactory and often below the cost of production. In the case of last year's harvest (at 10t/ha) they amounted to 1.60 PLN / kg and the processing plants paid 0.60 PLN / kg.



Z. Kopiński estimates that after this year's frosts the yield of the Ruben variety will be reduced to 5.5 t / ha and Ores to 2.5-3 t / ha.

This year, the biggest problem of producers in the Lublin region was frostbite, which in many places significantly reduced the yield potential. They were recorded on April 17 and May 10 (-6 degrees).

See also photo gallery.

The owner of the farm presented the plantation with the varieties of Ores and Ruben, planted in 2009, followed by also Tisel and Ruben, which were established in 2010. He estimates that this season will collect 5.5 t / ha Ruben and 2.5- 3 t / ha of Ores variety. Small yields are also expected from the Tisel variety. Last year, the average harvest of the plantations was 10.2 t / ha, in 2015 about 12.5 ha. In the current season, the plantator expects about 4.5 t / ha.

Representatives of IBA very positively assessed the condition of the plantation and inquired about the fertilization of the shrubs. As the farmer explained, every year on a hectare plantation produces 200 kg of ammonium nitrate, ie 70 kg of pure nitrogen, 150 kg of potassium in a pure ingredient, and phosphorus is introduced into the soil before planting a 300 kg plantation in a pure ingredient, .

Visitors were interested in whether currant producers get more money from processing plants for higher quality fruit or a particular variety. That is in the UK, where the rate increases with a higher level of Brix degrees, or in France where the manufacturer for delivering the fruit of a particular variety gets a higher price. As explained by Zbigniew Kopiński, the average sugar content in fruits is 16-17 degrees, but the price is not dependent on this factor.

IBA President Anthony Snell noted that professional manufacturers should be favored by processors and appreciated for higher quality goods. Unlike amateur manufacturers, they guarantee high quality of products, comply with standards and have certificates of fruit quality. Full identification of the goods is valuable for the plant, so it should have a profitable effect on the professional producers who invest in their farms and product quality.

Tihope is promising ...

Another farm, which visited the delegation, runs in Piotrowice Wielkie, dr Piotr Baryła (organizer of the visit of representatives of the IBA and vice president of this organization) with his partner Tomasz Woźniak. Each of them, apart from the common plantation, also grows currants themselves. Most of the machines they used on their plantations bought together, which helped them reduce production costs and get better equipment. Investments (purchase of packaging, tractor and sprayer) EU funds, obtained for the modernization of farms. They also bought currant seedlings. Growers share responsibilities - one is responsible for the logistics and organization of the harvest, the other for processing plants and agrotechnics. The equipment of the farm are, among others. 2 sprayers, 2 combine harvesters, 3 tractors and smaller equipment, such as a machine to pull out the bush leaves and branches after cutting.



Dr Piotr Baryła, the organizer of the visit of representatives of IBA and the vice president of this organization, presents his plantation in Piotrowice Wielkie. Expected yield of the Tiben variety is about 10 t / ha.

Blackcurrant production takes place on an area of 25 hectares (fruiting shrubs). In addition, the growers plant another 1.5 ha of young plantations and prepare 3 ha for autumn planting. They planted 5 varieties, whose share in the production is about 20%.

IBA delegation viewed 6-year-old plantation of 1.8 hectares with the Tiben variety. Last year, 8 tons per hectare was collected, and this year, Dr. Piotr Baryła estimated yields of about 10t/ha. Here spring frosts did not make much damage, but a big problem is the rotary cutterbar.

The plantation with a new Polish variety - very large fruit, which is planted in 2015 in the autumn, is the first crop of this year. - We have high hopes with this variation. After these two years of cultivation we see no defects. There are no problems with either diseases or pests, said Dr Piotr Baryła. He also demonstrated the planting of the 2012 Ruben cultivar, which, according to the plant grower, is the weakest part of the plantation, will be eliminated this year due to a large problem with currant reversal virus.



Tihope. "We have a lot of hopes with this variation. After these two years of cultivation we see no defects. There are no problems with either diseases or pests," said Dr. Piotr Baryła. Representatives of the IBA also saw a plantation in Piotrowice Wielkie, where they are experimenting with plant protection (Bayer) and fertilization (Timac Agro).