COT INTERNATIONAL is working with the Californian Breeding Company SMS Unlimited owned by Stephen Southwick. With him, we have selected 8 cherry varieties to present. These varieties are in experimental or production orchards, in several regions of the United States (South and medium region of California and Washington State), in Spain and in France; Frisco and Rocket in all Europe now. These several locations allow to have a better experience and information on the agronomic characteristics and fruit quality of each variety. Our selection objectives are: to have a full cherry calendar from early season to late season; high fruit quality as big size, high firmness, excellent taste with a high sugar level; cracking tolerance, self-fertility or high production every year.

The new SMS Unlimited LLC (USA) varieties

M.L. Eteve
COT International

Nimba

Nimba is an early ripening cherry, Burlat season. Even if NIMBA is not self-fertile, it is very productive and precocious. It has very good size for its earliness, around 30 mm, and for its large crop load. The firmness is also good and the eating quality excellent. Nimba is still under evaluation in various regions in Europe but deserves attention because of its early ripening, productivity, appealing taste and appearance. The pollination alleles are S2S3. Tolerance to rain is quite low. It needs to be grown under plastic cover.

Pacific Red

Pacific Red is a very high quality early ripening sweet cherry variety. Pacific Red ripens about 5 days after Nimba and before Frisco. The fruit has a round shape, a nice dark red and shiny color and very firm, with a long stem and has a great flavor. The fruit is large in size (30 – 32 mm). The variety is self-fertile with pollination alleles of S4’S9. There is great interest in planting both Nimba and Pacific Red for pollination reasons and for their following maturity. Tolerance to rain is quite low. It needs to be grown under plastic cover.

Rocket

Rocket is a large, early ripening cherry, harvested about 8 days after Burlat. The fruit has a heart-like shape and reaches sizes of 34-36mm. The variety should be grown with rootstocks and techniques encouraging flowering and fruiting. The pollination alleles are S1S9 and it is not self-fertile. An ample amount of pollination should be supplied by appropriate pollinators when Rocket is being planted. Tolerance to rain is quite good.
**Frisco**

Frisco is a very productive large cherry with excellent eating and shipping qualities. The variety ripens about 10-13 days after Burlat. Frisco is self-fertile with S1’S4 pollination alleles. The fruit is very large some reaching 30-34mm with a nice dark-red color. The taste is excellent. The firmness is good. Tolerance to rain appears good.

**New cherry selections for 2020!**

**SMS 1**

SMS 1 is a sweet cherry under development primarily in California and now in France. The variety ripens earlier than Brooks and is very large and productive. It appears to have better tolerance to rain and cracking. The variety has long stems, a beautiful red shiny skin and is very sweet to the taste and as a result can be harvested early. The variety responds very well to rest breaking agents and gibberellins and it is suitable for shipping and appears to be an earlier replacement for the variety Brooks. SMS 1 is productive from Bakersfield, California to various regions in Washington State.

**SMS 16**

SMS 16 has shown excellent potential in the growing areas of California and Washington states of the USA. The variety is self-fertile and is highly productive. The fruit ripens slightly (3-7 days) after Chelan in areas of Washington State. In various regions of California from Bakersfield to Stockton it ripens after Coral and Brooks. Even though the production is very high with SMS 16, the fruit size is very large. Some fruits are 36mm in size and the average can be over 30mm. The stem length is long, the shape is uniform, the shine is beautiful and taste exceptional. Amazingly, the variety is productive in the Bakersfield area of California after treatment with the rest breaking agent Dormex.

**SMS 33**

SMS 33 is a mid-season variety ripening during the ‘Bing’ period around the Stockton region of California. The variety is very productive and large and more so than ‘Bing’. The firmness, taste, and appearance are quite good. The variety is currently under evaluation in several sweet cherry growing regions of the world.

**SMS 311**

SMS 311 is a late season variety. In the Stockton region of California, it matures after Sweetheart and Staccato, late ripening varieties. The fruit is very large and exceptionally firm. The variety is productive and the stem is long with very appearing fruit quality characteristics. The variety is currently under evaluation in several sweet cherry growing regions of the world.