The new IFG® (USA) varieties

C.L. Owens
IFG, Bakersfield (USA)

IFG is a privately held fruit breeding company located in the southern end of California’s San Joaquin Valley, with an emphasis on the development of new cultivars of seedless table grapes and sweet cherries. The focus of IFG’s sweet cherry breeding program is the development of dark and blush cherries with low chilling requirement, early ripening, high heat tolerance, firm flesh, large fruit size, consistent productivity, and outstanding fruit quality, both fresh and following cold storage. Since the founding of IFG in 2001, over 50,000 sweet cherry seedlings have been grown and evaluated, leading to the selection of over 300 individuals for replicated trials. Although the focus of the breeding program is to develop low-chill varieties, IFG has recently released seven varieties with a range of chilling requirement. The seven new cultivars are Cheery Grand™ (IFG Cher-one), Cheery Burst™ (IFG Cher-two), Cheery Crunch™ (IFG Cher-three), Cheery Blush™ (IFG Cher-four), Cheery Treat™ (IFG Cher-five), Cheery Glow™ (IFG Cher-six), and Cheery Moon™ (IFG Cher-seven). The chilling requirements of these varieties vary from less than 300 chill hours to more than 800 chill hours. The individual characteristics of each variety are described. US Plant Patents have been approved and US trademarks applied for both plants and fruit. Plant variety rights of these varieties and trademark registration within the European Union are pending. These varieties are available for testing by interested parties. IFG licenses cherry growers, marketers, and propagators in all major cherry production regions. Progressive expansion into new production regions with lower chilling requirements than those traditional for sweet cherry cultivars is a major objective for IFG.

Cheery Grand™ (IFG Cher-one)
Dark red, large, firm flesh, medium chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 27,578; 24 Jan. 2017. Fruit: large, 30-32 mm; kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh firm, dark red; stems medium-short, thick that remain green following cold storage. It ripens approximately 3 days before Brooks in Southern California and is larger, with darker fruit. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible (S3S9), productive.

Cheery Burst™ (IFG Cher-two)
Dark red, large, firm flesh, low to medium chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 29,988; 18, Dec. 2018. Fruit: large, 28-30 mm, kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh firm, dark red; stems thick that remain green following cold storage. It ripens approximately 3-5 days before Brooks in Southern California and is larger, with darker fruit. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible with one un-identified S-allele (S9S?); productive; chilling requirement approximately 300-500 chill hours.
Cheery Treat™ (IFG Cher-five)

Dark red, large, firm flesh, medium chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 30011; 25, Dec. 2018. Fruit: large, 30-32 mm, kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh firm, dark red; stems thick that remain green following cold storage. Ripens approximately 3 days before Brooks in Southern California and is larger, with darker fruit. Tree: spreading growth habit, self-incompatible with one unidentified S-allele (S1S?); productive; bears primarily on annual wood; chilling requirement approximately 500 chill hours.

Cheery Crunch™ (IFG Cher-three)

Dark red, medium sized, very firm flesh, low chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 30011; 25, Dec. 2018. Fruit: medium, 26 mm, kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh very firm, over 400 g/mm; dark red; fewer doubled-fruits than Brooks; stems thick that remain green following cold storage. Ripens approximately 5-7 days before Brooks in Southern California. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible (S3S6); chilling requirement approximately 300 hours; productive; spur-fruitful.

Cheery Blush™ (IFG Cher-four)

Blush, medium sized, very firm flesh, low chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP applied for. Fruit: medium, 26 mm, kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh very firm, over 350 g/mm; white flesh; fewer doubled-fruits than Brooks; stems thick that remain green following cold storage. Ripens approximately 14-18 days before Rainier in Southern California. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible (S1S6); chilling requirement approximately 300 hours; very productive; spur-fruitful.
Cheery Glow™ (IFG Cher-six)

Blush, medium sized, very firm flesh, low to medium chill, early season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 29,332, 4 Dec. 2018. Fruit: medium, 28-30 mm, reniform with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh firm, over 300 g/mm; white flesh; fewer doubled-fruits than Brooks; stems long and thick that remain green following cold storage. Ripens approximately 7-10 days before Rainier in Southern California. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible (S1S6); chilling requirement approximately 300; productive.

Cheery Moon™ (IFG Cher-seven)

Dark red, large, firm flesh, high chill, early to mid-season. Origin: International Fruit Genetics, LLC, Bakersfield, California by D. Cain. USPP 30,261; 5 Mar. 2019. Fruit: large, 30-32 mm, kidney shaped with broad shoulders and flat base; flesh firm, dark red; stems long and thick that remain green following cold storage. Ripens approximately between Bing and Chelan in Southern California. Tree: open growth habit, self-incompatible (S4S9); productive; chilling requirement over 800 chill hours.