Evaluation of introduced plum cultivars in the conditions of Southern Zone of the Republic of Belarus

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Introduced plum cultivars 'Diana', 'Empress', 'Jojo', 'Nectavit', 'Prezenta', 'Prezident', 'Promis', 'Record', 'Tevera' have been studied. Cultivar 'Nagrada Nemanskaya' was used as standard. Cultivars were grafted on rootstock 'VPK-1'. Plants were planted in spring of 2011, and the planting scheme was 4 × 3 m. The selection of adapted to the soil-climatic conditions and high yielding plum cultivars was the object of the study.

The introduced plum cultivars 'Record', 'Tevera', 'President', 'Prezenta', 'Promis', 'Empress', 'Jojo' were characterized by early beginning of vegetation that was similar to standard cultivar ('Nagrada Nemanskaya'). Cultivars 'Diana' and 'Nectavit' characterized by late beginning of vegetation. The early end of vegetation was observed for plum cultivars 'Diana', 'Empress', 'Nectavit', 'Promis' as well as zoned cultivar 'Nagrada Nemanskaya' (standard). The late end of vegetation was observed for 'Record' and 'Jojo'.

The studied introduced plum cultivars characterized by different growth vigour. After four years of growing in the orchard 'Diana' and 'Record' were rated as slow growing in relation to bole diameter (less than 50 mm), and 'Diana' in relation to tree height (below 2.5 m). 'President' and 'Prezenta' were rated as tall growing in relation to bole diameter (more than 60 mm), and 'Empress', 'Promis', 'Prezident', 'Prezenta' in relation to height (above 3.0 m). Introduced plum cultivars 'Empress', 'Jojo', 'President', 'Prezenta' and 'Tevera' are appeared like early maturing that starts fruiting in the third year after planting in the orchard (more than 2 kg per tree).

Keywords: cultivar testing, early maturing cultivars, plant growth, stone fruits, yield