

WSU Cider Apple and Sweet Cherry Breeding Program

By Tymon James

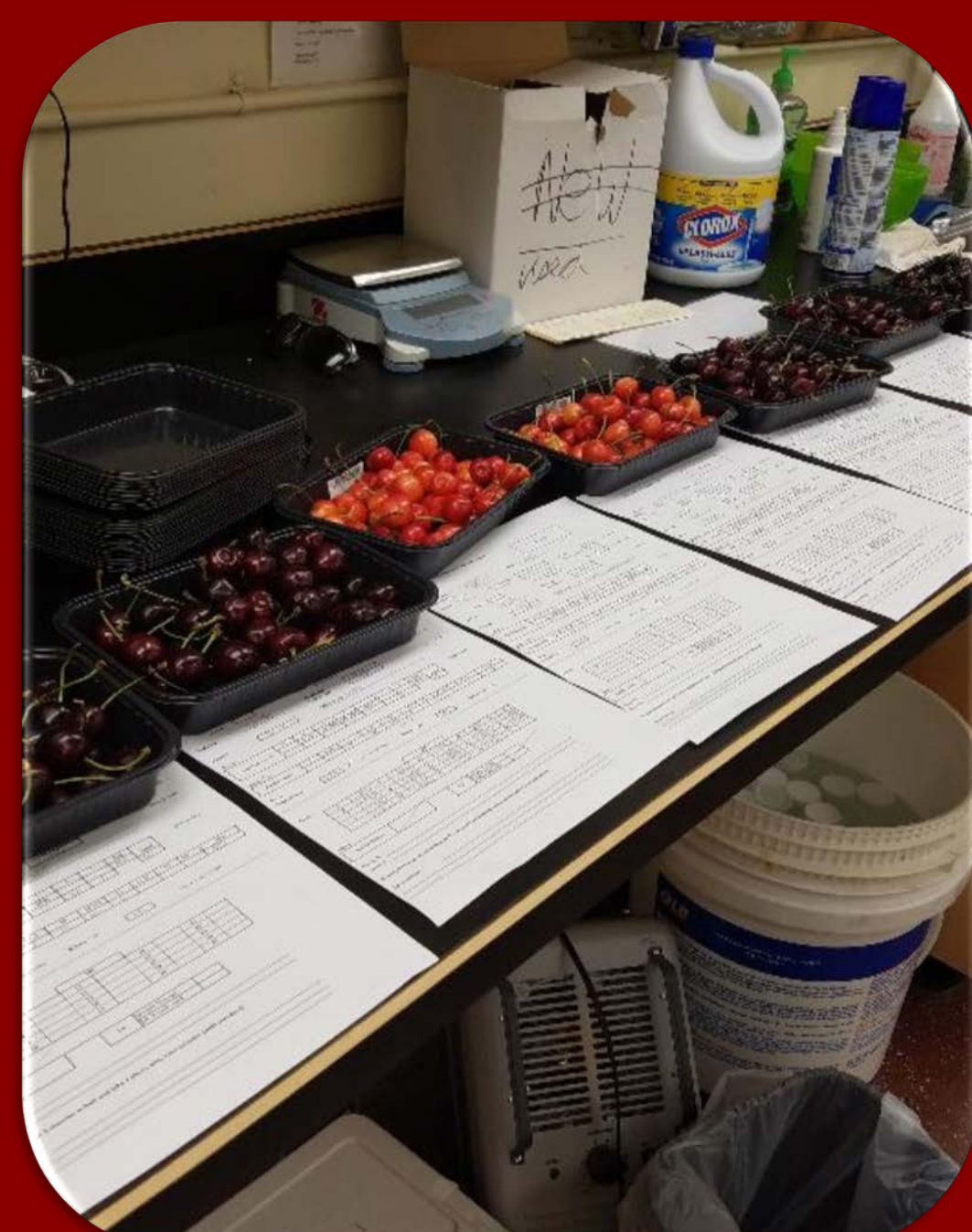
Introduction:

The **WSU cider apple breeding program** is a student-run program started in 2014 under the guidance of Dr. Cameron Peace based in Pullman, WA. The mission is to develop cultivars for marketing to back yard cider hobbyists, and enthusiasts.

The **WSU sweet cherry breeding program** was started in 2004, is based in Prosser, WA, and works in cooperation with many industry professionals.

The Experience:

In the **WSU cider apple breeding program**, I had the opportunity to be involved in many aspects. Emasculation, cross-pollination, seedling selection, transplanting, sample collection, DNA extraction, and DNA analysis.



In the **WSU sweet cherry breeding program**, I got to travel to Prosser, WA once a week during cherry season, I did group tastings with industry professionals on selections with potential, I got to walk the rows of seedlings doing field evaluation for the next exciting selection, and got to observe fruit evaluation in the fruit lab in Prosser.

To enrich the experience even more, my mentor (Dr. Cameron Peace) and I had weekly meetings. In these meetings, I learned the basics of breeding programs, the steps necessary in breeding programs, and the challenges faced at each step.

Summary:

The experience and knowledge I gained from this internship will carry me into the future. It has given me a clear direction and a renewed sense of purpose. I will definitely make use of the industry contacts I made. For me, fruit breeding is not just a career anymore, it is a passion.