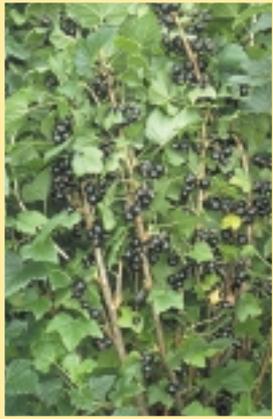


New Blackcurrant cultivars

Ben Gairn (F4/1/67) is derived from a cross between Ben Alder and the Russian cultivar Golubka, and provides good yields of early-ripening fruit. The main agronomic advantage of this cultivar is its resistance to blackcurrant reversion-associated virus (BRAV), derived from Golubka.



The growth habit is fairly compact, and flowering is early (c. 7 days before Ben Lomond), with consequently a small risk of frost damage in some years, although performance to date has not shown undue losses.

Fruit quality is good in terms of juice colour, although ascorbic acid levels are fairly low, and the fruit is acceptable for commercial juice production. Berry size is fairly large, and harvest is usually c. 8-10 days before Ben Lomond.

Resistance to foliar diseases is good.

Ben Hope (C1/9/10) is derived from a complex cross between Westra x (238/36 x EM21/15). It is a very vigorous and upright-growing bush, and most importantly has a high level of resistance to blackcurrant gall mite based on the *Ce* gene. As a consequence, it may be amenable to low-input growing systems.

It flowers c. 2 days after Ben Lomond, but its harvest date is usually up to 10 days later than Lomond. Yields are consistently high, with medium-sized berries, and the fruit is acceptable for commercial juicing on all grounds, including good sensory quality.

Ben Hope has good resistance to both mildew and leaf spot.

The plant variety rights for both cultivars are held by SmithKline Beecham plc.



New Potato cultivars

Amour

Amour is a multipurpose, early maincrop cultivar, which was placed on the National List in 1998. It has proved very successful in overseas trials, particularly around the Mediterranean basin in such countries as Cyprus, Egypt, Morocco and Israel. It is the product of an SCRI parent crossed with Cara, and produces a bold sample of large, red-eyed, oval tubers. Earlier than Cara, it has inherited its parent's resistance to the golden potato cyst nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*, Ro1 pathotype). It is marketed through the Zenith group.



Blush

Blush is a first early cultivar, which was placed on the National List in 1998. It produces high yields at both early and mature lifts and has attractive oval cream tubers with pink eyes and white flesh. Blush has good levels of resistance to virus Y and Common scab, and also partial resistance to both the golden (*G. rostochiensis*) and white (*G. pallida*) potato cyst nematodes. It is marketed through the Agrico / Greenvale AP consortium.



	Amour	Blush
Origin :	9559AB2 x Cara	15005A2 x 12380AC2
Year of cross :	1982	1987
Maturity	Early maincrop	First Early
Wart	Susc.	Field immune
Late blight (f)	5	1
Late blight (t)	5	4
Gangrene	5	4
Common scab	4	7
Virus:		
PVY	2	8
PLRV	4	6
Spraing	-	4
PCN:		
<i>G. rost.</i>	9	Partial R
<i>G. pall.</i>	Susc.	Partial R
Blackleg	-	5