

P-36 (21)**GENE POOL COLLECTION OF FICUS CARICA L. IN RUSSIA**

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The figs collection of Russia is concentrated at Nikita Botanical Garden - National Research Centre and considered to be the most complete across the former Soviet Union. Since the first years Nikita Botanical Garden had been founded (1812) the figs varieties collecting started. This collection included fig sorts that were spread since the times of highly developed agricultural ancient Greek civilization on the Southern Coast of Crimea. During first years study involved figs varieties spread on the Southern Coast of Crimea. Significant work on the figs Varieties introduction and creation of the collection had been carried out from 1925 to 1940. There were involved varieties from 14 foreign countries and also local sorts of Transcaucasia and Central Asia. There were conducted studies of sorts diversity in various regions of Soviet Union, material collection and seedlings or cuttings ordering from foreign countries. At the same time great breeding work was carrying out. Gene pool of figs of NBG-NRC at the present time includes the following species: *F. carica* L., *F. palmate* Forsk. *F. pseudo-carica* Miq. *F. virgata* Roxb. and contains 267 varieties and forms which 52 of them are of native and 100 varieties of foreign breeding. The best varieties were received from Tunisia, France, Italy, USA, Albania, Georgia. In percentage terms the figs collection includes 40% of native varieties and forms, 11,2% - received from USA, 9,4% - from France, 8,8% - from Georgia, 5,3% - from Albania, 5,3% - from Tunisia, 4,7% - from Yugoslavia, 4,1% - from Azerbaijan, 3,5% - from Bulgaria, 2,9% - from Italy. On the basis of the unique gene pool breeding work is carried out that is directed to the creation of early ripening, winterhardy varieties of table, dehydrated and cannery trends that can fulfil specific requirements of production. Breeding work gave an opportunity to draw conclusions about prospects for the use of some foreign varieties with valuable progeny and also to enlarge figs collection with hybrid material. The noticeable varieties bred at Nikita Botanical Garden are Jeltoplodnij, Urojajnij, Nayrannejshij Fioletovij, Sabrutsija Rozovaja, Suhofruktovij Nikitskij, Limonno - Jeltij.

Keywords: figs, gene pool, varieties, introduction, breeding

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