



**10th INTERNATIONAL
CHERRY SYMPOSIUM**



ORAL PRESENTATIONS



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An “evergrowing” sweet cherry for breeding and research

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Singular “evergrowing” phenotypes, those that do not shed the leaves in autumn and do not enter dormancy during winter, have been described in a few fruit trees species, namely in peach, hazel and pomegranate. These genotypes are a useful research tool to investigate and advance our understanding of the processes that regulate seasonal growth in deciduous fruit tree species. Research on evergrowing peach lead to major advancement in this area with the identification of the *DAM* genes as key players in the regulatory network of dormancy onset and release. In this work we present the obtention and preliminary characterization of an evergrowing sweet cherry tree resulting from inbreeding. This genotype does not go into dormancy and maintains its growth all year. This genotype was obtained by *in vitro* embryo rescue from selfing of a local landrace and has great potential for breeding and research. Phenotypic characterization under different environmental conditions, as well as genotypic evaluation and molecular analyses are being carried out to fully characterize the physiology and genes that regulate this phenotype. Molecular work has been initiated with the study of *DAM* genes conservation and expression. These results will be presented, and possible causes and usefulness of this phenotype will be discussed.

Prunus avium, evergreen, seasonal growth, dormancy, *DAM* genes