

# 'H2-169' (Ambrosia™) Pear

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'H2-169' is an early midseason, very large, productive, green pear (*Pyrus communis* L.) with exceptional texture and quality (Fig. 1). Picking date in Lafayette, Ind., is mid-August, which is earlier than 'Bartlett' ('Williams' Bon Cretien'). When ripened at room temperature the flavor is rich and delicious. The texture is buttery and grit free with a very small core. Fruit can develop russet. The tree is round shaped with atypical spreading branches and produces annually. The tree is tolerant to fireblight caused by *Erwinia amylovora* (Burr.) Winslow et al. similar to 'Honeysweet'. 'Ambrosia' is the third release of the Purdue University pear breeding program after 'Honeysweet' (Janick, 1977) and 'Green Jade' (Janick, 2004).

## Origin

The seedling derives from a cross made in 1978 at the Purdue University Horticulture Farm between US 571 and 'Honeysweet' (progeny Purdue 727 in the breeding records). In total, 1488 seedlings were planted at the Hensley tract in 1985. On 20 Aug. 1993 a seedling located in Row 2 Tree 169 was selected carrying the designation H2-169. The seedling was grafted onto a seedling rootstock and planted in test plots at the Purdue University Horticulture Farm in 1997. The pedigree is diagrammed in Fig. 2.

## Description

The following description of flowers, fruit, tree and leaves contain color designations according to the horticulture colour chart issued by the Royal Horticultural Society of London (2001).

## FLOWER

Corolla size: 33 to 35 mm, petals nontouching when open.  
 Petal size: 16 mm, rounded.  
 Color: white (N155D) with pink spots (red group 49B).  
 Stamens: 6 mm, white (N155D).  
 Anthers: red purple (58D).  
 Pistil: 9 mm, rounded, green yellow (8P).  
 Pollen: yellow group 3C.  
 Fragrance: slightly fetid.

## FRUIT

Shape: pyriform, symmetrical, length to diameter ratio = 1.35.  
 Size: 73 to 91 mm in length and 82 × 120 mm in diameter).  
 Stem: short and stout (19 mm, 4 mm thick), greyed orange (165A).  
 Locules: small, closed.

Received for publication 26 Oct. 2005. Accepted for publication 21 Dec. 2005.

Skin: thin, glossy, susceptible to overall light russetting.  
 Russet: susceptible to fine russet, very light to heavy.  
 Lenticels: small, russeted, grey orange group (165C).  
 Skin color: green yellow groups (1D); occasional orange blush (26A).  
 Flesh color: yellow white (158D).  
 Acidity: 0.147 g malic acid/100 mL juice.  
 Firmness: 7 to 10 kg·cm<sup>-2</sup> when mature; 0.5 to 2.2 kg·cm<sup>-2</sup> when ripened.  
 Soluble solids: 13% to 15% Brix.  
 Flavor: sweet, rich.  
 Texture: buttery to moderately juicy, no obvious grit cells even at calyx end.  
 Aroma: slight.  
 Core: basal, 22 mm wide × 40 mm, closed, lines weakly defined.  
 Seed: 10.3 mm long × 5.7 mm wide, greyed Purples 187A.  
 Season: early to midseason, picking date at Lafayette between 12 to 20 Aug.  
 Storage: 6 weeks at 1 °C.  
 Usage: dessert.

## TREE

Vigor: vigorous.  
 Shape: round.

Branch angle: 45°.  
 Branch color: 1 year, greyed red (178A); 2 year, greyed orange (177B).  
 Branch lenticels: medium density, round, 1.2 mm, grey green (197D).  
 Bearing: annual.  
 Disease: tolerance to fireblight comparable to 'Honeysweet'.

## LEAVES

Texture: smooth.  
 Sheen: glossy.  
 Size: average 765 mm long × 51.2 mm wide.  
 Shape: acuminate.  
 Petiole: 5.2 mm 1.2mm yellow green (150B).  
 Pubescence: none.

## Availability

'Ambrosia' is licensed in the United States by GardensAlive! Inc. and is presently available from Gurney's Seed and Nursery Co. (phone 513/354-1491; www.Gurneys.com) and Henry Fields Seed and Nursery Co. (phone 513/354-1494). Plant Patent is pending.

## Literature Cited

Janick, J. 1977. 'Honeysweet' pear. HortScience 12:357.  
 Janick, J. 2004. 'P448-2' (Green Jade) pear. HortScience 39:454-455.  
 Royal Horticultural Society. 2001. RHS colour chart. Royal Hort. Soc., London.

Fig. 1. 'H2-169' (Ambrosia) pear.

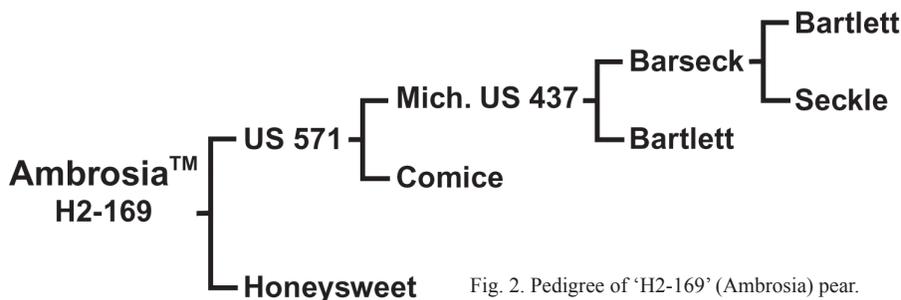


Fig. 2. Pedigree of 'H2-169' (Ambrosia) pear.