

# Variation in Some Characteristics of the Midway Strawberry

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At the present time, some commercial nurserymen are listing two clones or stocks of Midway strawberry, a variety introduced in December, 1959, by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. Midway was originated in the cooperative strawberry breeding program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and is now being grown extensively in eastern United States.

In the spring of 1964, Mr. Calvin Lutz, strawberry grower and nurseryman at Kaleva, Michigan, noted two differences in the performance of two different stocks of Midway and informed the senior author of his observations. He observed that Stock #1 had ripe fruit about 5 days earlier than Stock #2, and that plants of Stock #1 had paler green foliage than Stock #2. Both stocks were growing in the same field with the same cultural care. Stock #1 had been obtained in 1961 from a Michigan nurseryman; and Stock #2 was obtained in 1962 from the Michigan Department of Agriculture; which, in turn, had obtained stock from the USDA at Beltsville, Md. Mr. Lutz kindly sent us plants of both stocks in December, 1964, and again in October 1965; and they have been fruited at Beltsville in 1967, 1968, and 1969 in full matted beds.

Our observations on the performance of the two stocks corroborate those of Mr. Lutz. The fruit of Stock #1 has ripened 3 to 5 days earlier than Stock #2 each year. The color of the fruit of Stock #1 is slightly brighter red than Stock #2, but in all other re-

spects the fruits of the two stocks are indistinguishable. The foliage of Stock #1 is a lighter, or gray-green color, compared with a dark green color for Stock #2. Plants of both stocks were free of viruses detectable with indicator clones of *Fragaria vesca*.

The origin of the differences in the stocks is unknown. Stock #1 in Michigan was originally obtained from a foundation nurseryman in Maryland in spring of 1960. The Michigan nurseryman propagated the plants for one year before they were supplied to Mr. Lutz.

Some nurserymen are listing Stock #1 of Midway as "Midway No. 1," and the other stock as "Midway No. 2." Some confusion has arisen as to which characteristics are associated with No. 1 and which with No. 2. To clarify the question, we propose that Midway No. 1 be called "Early Midway" and that Midway No. 2 be known as "Midway." Both varieties are valuable in extending the strawberry season.

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## Russetting in Golden Delicious Types and Sports

In view of all the effort being expended to find a russet-resistant Golden Delicious or Golden Delicious type, the following quotation from a letter from Roger Way, of the New York Agr. Exp. Station, is Worth noting. The editor reminds the reader, however, that the degree of russetting is influenced by environmental conditions and management practices.

"None of the Golden Delicious sports have been satisfactorily free of russet in our tests (at Geneva). Even

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