

# Apollo and Atlas, Two New Strawberries for the South

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'Apollo' and 'Atlas' are two new strawberry varieties, which have been released to certified plant growers, for increase by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture. Tested from Amherst, Massachusetts, south to Willard, North Carolina, and west to Carbondale, Illinois and Fayetteville, Arkansas, the new berries performed best in the coastal plain and Piedmont regions from Beltsville, Maryland, to eastern North Carolina, and at Bald Knob, Arkansas. 'Apollo' also performed well in the mountains of western North Carolina.

'Apollo' and 'Atlas' represent a considerable improvement in yielding ability and fruit size over the standard 'Albritton' and 'Earlibelle' varieties in eastern North Carolina. Both new varieties are firm-fruited and attractive.

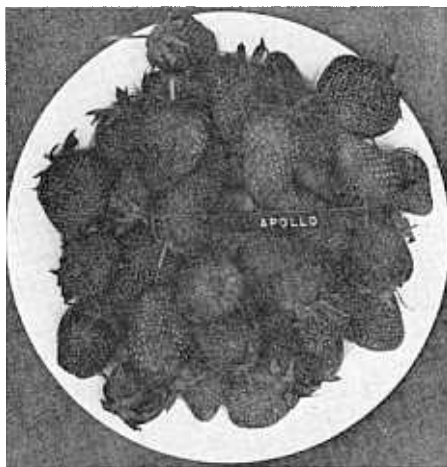


Figure 1. Apollo, an early, large, disease resistant strawberry.

They are suited to intensive matted row or hill culture, and should effect

Table 1. Yields of 'Apollo' and 'Atlas' strawberries compared with standard varieties at three North Carolina locations. (Values in the same row followed by the same letter do not differ statistically).

		Apollo	Atlas	Albritton	Earlibelle
<b>1968—First year matted rows</b>					
Plymouth	Total (lbs/A)	26785 <sup>a</sup>	28733 <sup>a</sup>	17616 <sup>b</sup>	16099 <sup>b</sup>
	% marketable	80 <sup>a</sup>	77 <sup>a</sup>	79 <sup>a</sup>	68 <sup>b</sup>
Faison	Total (lbs/A)	24230 <sup>a</sup>	21457 <sup>b</sup>	17106 <sup>c</sup>	14173 <sup>d</sup>
	% marketable	78 <sup>a</sup>	83 <sup>a</sup>	85 <sup>a</sup>	74 <sup>a</sup>
Method	Total (lbs/A)	18473 <sup>a</sup>	21309 <sup>a</sup>	12397 <sup>b</sup>	11379 <sup>b</sup>
	% marketable	86 <sup>a</sup>	79 <sup>ab</sup>	76 <sup>b</sup>	66 <sup>c</sup>
<b>1969—Second year matted rows</b>					
Plymouth	Total (lbs/A)	24961 <sup>a</sup>	22957 <sup>b</sup>	17169 <sup>c</sup>	16228 <sup>c</sup>
	% marketable	56 <sup>b</sup>	69 <sup>a</sup>	68 <sup>a</sup>	65 <sup>a</sup>
Faison	Total (lbs/A)	20544 <sup>a</sup>	16444 <sup>b</sup>	14122 <sup>b</sup>	10947 <sup>c</sup>
	% marketable	61 <sup>b</sup>	65 <sup>ab</sup>	68 <sup>a</sup>	58 <sup>b</sup>
Method	Total (lbs/A)	16890 <sup>ab</sup>	18529 <sup>a</sup>	12935 <sup>b</sup>	13004 <sup>b</sup>
	% marketable	75 <sup>a</sup>	73 <sup>a</sup>	69 <sup>a</sup>	58 <sup>b</sup>

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**Table 2.** Average fruit size (grams/berry) of 'Apollo' and 'Atlas' strawberries compared with standard varieties at three North Carolina locations. (Values in the same row followed by the same letter do not differ statistically).

	Apollo	Atlas	Albritton	Earlibelle
<b>1968—First year matted rows</b>				
Plymouth	11.3 <sup>a</sup>	11.7 <sup>a</sup>	7.6 <sup>b</sup>	7.0 <sup>b</sup>
Faison	8.7 <sup>a</sup>	8.8 <sup>a</sup>	6.9 <sup>b</sup>	6.2 <sup>c</sup>
Method	11.0 <sup>a</sup>	11.2 <sup>a</sup>	7.3 <sup>c</sup>	8.1 <sup>b</sup>
<b>1969—Second year matted rows</b>				
Plymouth	8.1 <sup>a</sup>	8.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 <sup>b</sup>	6.0 <sup>c</sup>
Faison	8.6 <sup>a</sup>	7.7 <sup>b</sup>	6.7 <sup>c</sup>	5.8 <sup>d</sup>
Method	9.2 <sup>a</sup>	9.7 <sup>a</sup>	7.0 <sup>b</sup>	7.2 <sup>b</sup>

a saving in land and labor, because large fruit is easier to pick and smaller acreage is necessary for high yields.

A comparison of yielding ability of 'Apollo' and 'Atlas' with the standard varieties 'Albritton' and 'Earlibelle' at three eastern North Carolina locations for two seasons is reported in Table 1.

Soils at all three locations had been treated with methyl bromide prior to planting. The data are from unthinned matted rows in plots 25 or 40 feet long, replicated four times at each location in a randomized complete block statistical design. The new varieties clearly outyielded the standard varieties at all locations during the first fruiting season. During

the second season, yields of 'Apollo' were not statistically superior to the standard varieties at the Method (Raleigh) location, and 'Atlas' was not superior to 'Albritton' at the Faison location.

Table 2 shows the weighted seasonal average fruit size for each variety at each location in both seasons. In all instances, 'Apollo' and 'Atlas' were larger fruited than 'Albritton' and 'Earlibelle.' In eastern North Carolina and Arkansas, 'Apollo' was a late ripening berry, and 'Atlas,' a mid-season berry. But at Beltsville, Maryland, and in western North Carolina, both of the new varieties matured their fruit early.

Both 'Apollo' and 'Atlas' were resistant to leaf scorch, leaf spot and leaf blight. 'Apollo' was also resistant to powdery mildew; but 'Atlas' was only tolerant to powdery mildew.

The new varieties ship well. Both varieties made an acceptable frozen product; but the flesh color was lighter than desired.

The new varieties originated from crosses made in 1956 at Raleigh, North Carolina. 'Apollo's' parentage is [(Fairpeake x (Aberdeen x Redheart)) x Tennessee Beauty] x (Southland x Missionary). The parentage of 'Atlas' is [(Fairpeake x (Aberdeen x Redheart)) x Tennessee Beauty] x Albritton.



**Figure 2.** Atlas, an early, large-fruited strawberry.