

GROWING STRAWBERRIES FOR MARKET IN KENTUCKY

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This short circular wastes no time in getting to the point. The whole range of strawberry growing is covered very briefly yet completely.

Varieties

Blakemore comprises about 75 per cent of the Kentucky strawberry acreage. This variety is a vigorous plant maker, ripens early, is firm, a good shipper, and excellent for fresh use, preserving or freezing. The disadvantages of this variety are its susceptibility to yellows disease, early bloom which may be injured by frost, and excess runner formation which may result in small berries.

Aroma, a late variety, is on the decline in Kentucky because of soft berries, only moderate plant making ability, and average yields.

Premier is a productive, large fruited variety which is too soft for long-distance handling. This variety will not carry under refrigeration but is excellent for fresh use, preserving and local sales.

Tennessee Beauty is a very productive late ripening variety and a good

plant maker. It produces large, firm, bright red, high quality berries which are excellent for fresh use, shipping, preserving, and freezing. It is suggested as a late variety to replace Aroma.

Tennessee Shipper is a medium early variety, productive, very firm, excellent shipper, and excellent for preserving and freezing. The berries should be allowed to ripen on the plants to insure highest quality. This variety is gaining more headway in the "Premier sections" of Kentucky than in the "Blakemore sections". In Kentucky, Tennessee Shipper has not withstood drouth as well as Blakemore.

Production Practices

Numerous suggestions are made concerning various cultural operations. Early spring planting is emphasized.

The use of 1½ tons of straw as a mulch applied in early December has increased yields an average of 30 crates per acre in contrast to a similar mulch applied in the spring. Unmulched strawberries are usually injured when temperatures of 12° Fahrenheit or colder are experienced.

On the basis of tests conducted in Kentucky, the best renewal procedure is to mow the planting immediately after harvest and then scratch-cultivate the old middles reducing slightly the width of the matted rows.

The last two pages are given over to a discussion of insects and diseases.

—W.P.J.

