Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of Robusto with those of several other early plum cultivars of the southeastern United States.

Cultivar	Bloom date relative to Methley	Days from bloom to maturity	Skin color	Flesh color	Normal fruit Size (mm)	(in)
Six Weeks	+2	74	Red	Yellow/red	38	1.5
Bruce	−1	84	Green/orange/red	Yellow/red	43	1.7
Methley	0	88	Dark red	Very dark red	38	1.5
Wade	+2	88	Red	Yellow/red	43	1.7
Robusto	+3	88	Green/bright red	Red	41	1.6
Santa Rosa	+3	100	Red	Yellow/red	48	1.9

red flesh (Table 1) in two days on the shelf. Plums of the native hybrid type are often grown overcropped for maximum tonnage and achieve a size of only 1⅝ to 1¾" (41-44 mm). On the other hand, Robusto's potential fruit diameter with proper thinning is 1⅞" (48 mm) or better. Quality is rated quite good by those who appreciate the wild southern "Chickasaw" plum. The flesh clings tenaciously to the seeds.

Robusto has shown marked resistance to both bacterial leafspot (*Xanthomonas pruni* [E. F. Sm.] Dows.) in its leafspot, fruitspot, and twig canker/dieback phases, and to bacterial canker (*Pseudomonas syringae* van Hall). Robusto has thus far shown good resistance to the plum leaf scald associated with the presence of a rickettsia-like bacterium. Robusto is thought to possess good resistance to Prunus black knot (*Apiosporina morbosa* [Schw.] Arx) and the brown rots (*Monilinia* spp), but has not yet been adequately challenged in either case. Our trees were recently indexed free of necrotic ringspot and prune dwarf viruses.

Budwood from recently virus-indexed trees is currently available, though in limited quantities, from USDA-ARS, Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory, P. O. Box 87, Byron, GA 31008-0087, U.S.A.

The Gilbert Strawberry

F. A. GILBERT[1]

The Gilbert strawberry was released by the University of Wisconsin in 1982. This cultivar (tested as WI 7028) originated from a cross of Cyclone × Badgerglo at the Peninsular Experiment Station, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

The fruit of Gilbert is very large (maintaining relatively large fruits throughout a rather long harvest period), moderately firm, attractive red throughout the berry, attractive calyx, and the fruit quality is considered fair-good. The fruit picks easily but is slightly difficult to find due to the dense foliage.

The plants are vigorous, produce an abundance of runners which root readily and during the years it has been tested, it appears to be quite

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Table 1. Comparative Strawberry Yields — 1981.[1]

Cultivar	Avg. Wt./Plot Kilograms	Avg. No. of lbs./Plot	Lbs./Acre
Midway	5.043	11.09	6,942
Raritan	4.047	8.90	5,571
Redchief	5.085	11.19	7,005
Scot	5.559	11.75	7,335
Sparkle	6.307	13.88	8,689
WI 7028 (Gillbert)	8.139	17.91	11,212

[1]Wt. in Kilograms on 4 reps (20 root feet/rep) (plot size 70 ft. sq., 3½' × 20'). Department of Horticulture Farm, Arlington, Wisconsin . . . . . Dr. M. N. Dana.

Table 2. Strawberry Cultivar Trials — 1981[1] — Fruit Size.

Cultivar	Harvest Number 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Midway	14.4	10.9	10.1	7.7	6.0
Raritan	12.9	7.0	6.3	4.6	
Redchief	13.7	8.3	6.6	5.2	
Scott	20.4	11.2	9.0	7.1	6.5
Sparkle	15.6	15.5	10.1	7.1	5.5
WI 7028 (Gilbert)	19.6	14.2	10.1	7.1	7.0

[1]Average wt. of berries in grams (based on 448 g samples from each of 4 reps). Department of Horticulture Farm, Arlington, Wisconsin . . . . . Dr. M. N. Dana.

winter hardy (plant survival during rather severe open winters), and has apparently inherited resistance to leaf scorch from Cyclone.

Gilbert has been tested in Southern Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Fruit size and yields have been good in all areas, but the fruit has been too soft in Southern Illinois.

Fruit yield and size data presented in Tables 1-4 show the size characteristics and the plant's ability to maintain good commercial size throughout a rather long harvest season.

Gilbert appears to be adapted throughout the test area and probably warrants trial in areas where Raritan can be grown successfully.

As an early-midseason cultivar with good freezing qualities in addition to its high yield of large fruits, Gilbert should fit into the pick-your-own operations, particularly in the cooler producing areas.

Table 3. Comparative Strawberry Yields — 1981.[1]

Cultivar	Mean Yield (oz)/Harvest Date[2] 6/29	7/1	7/3	7/6	7/8	7/10	7/13	7/16	Total
Raritan	48.5	44.1	44.9	91.0	31.9	26.4	32.5	22.7	361.2
WI 7028 (Gilbert)	31.8	46.4	78.8	110.5	92.7	58.0	47.9	59.8	536.2
LSD	20.1	8.7	6.6	12.8	10.2	11.6	7.7	12.7	35.2

[1]Chaudoir Planting, Sturgeon Bay, WI . . . . . Dr. F. A. Gilbert and R. W. Weidman.
[2]Mean fruit yields for 5 replicate plots per harvest date.

Table 4. Comparative Fruit Weight — 1981.[1]

Cultivar	Mean Berry Weight (oz)/Harvest Date[2] 6/29	7/1	7/3	7/6	7/8	7/10	7/13	7/16	Total[3]
Raritan	0.34	0.51	0.44	0.32	0.27	0.18	0.22	0.12	8.5
WI 7028 (Gilbert)	0.63	0.96	0.91	0.68	0.45	0.39	0.31	0.28	15.7
LSD	0.23	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	5.8

[1]Chaudoir Planting, Sturgeon Bay, WI . . . . . Dr. F. A. Gilbert and R. W. Weidman.
[2]Mean berry weight (oz) for 25 fruit/harvest date.
[3]Mean total berry weight (oz) for 25 fruit.