

Northwest Strawberry

C. D. SCHWARTZE*

Puyallup, Washington

New strawberry acreage planted in Washington in 1954 was predominantly the Northwest variety. Substantial acreage of the new berry was set out in Oregon. Small-package freezers, skeptical at first, are now convinced that Northwest is a superior freezing berry. Compared with Marshall it is firmer, makes a better looking pack, gives a better packout, is even better color, and the flavor is just right when the usual one part of sugar is added to 4 parts of sliced berries.

Growers of Northwest report that it blossoms late enough to escape frosts that often reduce Marshall yields. The crop ripens about one week later than Marshalls. In 1954 this was just late enough to escape most of the late

rains which caught Marshalls and caused extensive loss from fruit rots. Northwest plants show almost no effects of the yellows virus but they are affected by red stele root rot. This disease is not a general problem in Washington, but it occurs in heavy soils and poorly drained locations. In Oregon it is more widespread but there is a large acreage of sandy soils that is free of red stele. A red stele resistant variety of high quality and good yielding ability is needed. Eastern varieties such as Sparkle and Fairland do not meet the requirements of this area.

Northwest has eye appeal and stands up in truck or rail shipment. Air shipments to Alaska have been highly successful. The Washington State Dept. of Agriculture reported after a 1952 survey of strawberry markets that this state offers a wide-open market for the Northwest variety in its season. There is an opportunity here for organizing a good fresh market deal with refrigerated trucks hauling the berries to the east side of the state, where no strawberries are grown.

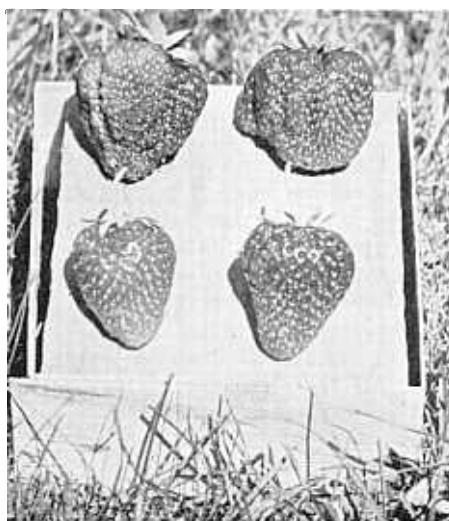


Fig. 1. The varieties Marshall (above) and Northwest (below). Northwest berries are long-conic, smooth and glossy.

*Horticulturist, State College of Washington.

Loring is a peach with only fair color and may hit at or near the Afterglow season, which alone would not warrant planting more of it. But this is one of the highest quality peaches I ever ran across yet. My wife had some peeled in an open cup two days, and they did not turn brown then. The only reason for not planting more at once is that it may ripen in the Red-skin season.—*A grower, Clyde, Ohio.*