

The Agassiz Strawberry

J. A. FREEMAN*

Agassiz, British Columbia

Agassiz is a new strawberry variety released in November, 1956, by the Canada Experimental Farm, Agassiz, British Columbia. It originated as a seedling from the cross Pathfinder x British Sovereign. The cross was made in 1947, and the selection in 1949 by T. H. Anstey and J. A. Freeman.

Fruit

The ripening season of Agassiz is about the same as that of British Sovereign, and in some areas it may be slightly earlier. The berries are very large and uniform and hold their size throughout the picking season. Both internal and external color of the berries is excellent, being a bright red. They are as firm as the British Sovereign. The flavor is slightly acid but the variety rates high in freezing quality.

Plant

The plant is vigorous and productive. Yields have been higher than those of the British Sovereign. Agassiz appears to have some drought resistance and also shows some resistance to red stele. In tests to date it has shown promise on both upland coarse textured soils, and lowland delta soils. Agassiz is a single-crop variety showing no tendency to the everbearing habit. It should be well adapted to the hill or matted-row system. However, in trials to date the matted-row system has given the larger yield.

Commercial Status

Agassiz is being released primarily for limited commercial trial. Plants have been distributed to recognized strawberry plant propagators through the Lower Mainland Horticultural Crop Improvement Association, and may be available from this Association in 1957. A limited number may be obtained, while the supply lasts, by other interested agencies or growers upon request to the Experimental Farm.



It is difficult to judge the tree characteristics of Clark Dwarf apples because the oldest trees, to my knowledge, were planted about 1948 at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Therefore we are hesitant about recommending Clark Dwarf trees except for limited trial. We do have considerable information on the performance of Malling rootstocks and can recommend them with more confidence.—*R. B. Tukey, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*



DEAR READER:

We need attractive photographs of fruit varieties for use on the cover of our publication. Such photos have to be sharp, black-and-white, uncluttered close-ups. If you should have negatives or at least 4 x 6 inch glossy prints of suitable subjects, we would be very pleased if you would send them to us, at our expense.—*Editor.*

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