Performance of Strawberry Varieties and Selections in Indiana

JULES JANICK* and E. B. WILLIAMS**
Lafayette, Indiana

Twenty-two substantially virus-free strawberry varieties and selections were set out in April, 1955 on a well-drained sandy loam soil at Lafayette, Indiana. The plots were not irrigated. During the growing season rainfall was adequate except during two periods; August, 1955, when only 1.67 inches of rain were recorded, and the period from June 1 to June 20, 1956, when only 0.12 of an inch was recorded. This coincides with the harvest period. In a four day period immediately before harvest, 3.28 inches were recorded. This unequal distribution of rain during the harvest period put late varieties at a disadvantage. Consequently, varieties should not be compared across seasons for yield. Yield, earliness, plant production, freezing evaluation, and leaf spot data are presented in Table 1.

It is unwise to make precise conclusions from a single year's data taken at one location. However, some of the new varieties under test appeared extremely promising. This was especially true when comparing the results with *Howard 17 (Premier)* and *Robinson,* the two most widely grown varieties in the northern portion of the state.

Where an early berry is desired the newly released *Earlidawn* appears to be very promising. It is extremely early, attractive, and productive. It appears superior to *Howard 17* in most respects. Its quality as a fresh market berry was rated poor due to its acidity. However, *Howard 17* was also rated poor.

For midseason, *Pocahontas* was the most outstanding variety. It is especially attractive and was the top yielder as well as the top plant producer. It had the highest score in a panel which evaluated the frozen berries. It is an acid berry with acceptable dessert quality when fresh. However, *Pocahontas* is quite susceptible to leaf spot, and this should be considered.

Two other new varieties which seem worthy of continued trials are *Dixieland* and *Surecrop. Dixieland* is a high yielder and extremely firm. However, it is rather dark and was rated as poor in quality. *Surecrop* is another high yielder and is extremely vigorous. It is reported resistant to the common race of red stele, one newer race, and partially resistant to a third race. Its quality was rated as poor. *Redglow,* another recently released variety, is attractive and has a good "strawberry" flavor. It is resistant to the common race of red stele. However, it did not yield as well as *Pocahontas, Dixieland,* or *Surecrop.*

Despite the dry weather which put late varieties at a disadvantage, Armore proved to be a high yielder. It was rated as high in quality. Its major disadvantage appears to be its lack of firmness and its rough shape. More testing is needed to determine its relative performance against the standard late variety, *Tennessee Beauty.*

The results of this trial as well as results of trials run in neighboring states indicate that the use of *Howard 17* and *Robinson* as the standard varieties is soon if not already over.

*Department of Horticulture, Purdue University.
**Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University.

TABLE 1. Evaluation of strawberry varieties and selections.

Variety or selection	*Yield qts/acre*	*Percent of total crop picked by 3rd picking (June 8)*	*Plants set per mother plant*	*Percent leaves with spotting diseases*	*Berry size*	*Freezing evaluation*
EARLY						
Earlidawn	8,122	63	21	18	Medium	Fair
Howard 17 (Premier)	5,672	53	22	27	Small to medium	Fair
Md. US 2101	3,812	54	21	25	Large	Fair
MIDSEASON						
Pocahontas	11,480	31	35	37	Medium to large	Good
Dixieland	9,892	40	29	34	Medium to large	Fair
Surecrop	9,438	27	32	6	Medium to large	Fair
Md. US 2210	8,894	50	27	35	Medium	Fair
US 3919	8,530	47	23	7	Medium	Fair
US 3972	7,714	29	23	12	Medium	Fair
Blakemore	7,487	31	34	16	Small to medium	Good
Redglow	7,396	40	28	9	Medium to large	Fair
Vermillion	6,035	40	18	11	Medium to large	Fair
US 3921	6,988	51	21	11	Medium to large	Fair
US 4177	4,038	48	22	11	Small to medium	Poor
US 4152	3,993	43	21	4	Small to medium	Fair
Fairfax	3,948	34	21	11	Medium to large	Poor
Albritton	3,448	24	21	10	Medium	Fair
LATE						
Armore	8,712	10	29	20	Large	Fair
Tenn. Beauty	6,625	20	25	8	Medium	Fair
Robinson	5,944	18	24	44	Large	Poor
Sparkle	5,994	18	27	9	Medium to large	Fair
US 4143	3,402	1	23	23	Large	Fair
L.S.D. .05		10.4	6.6			

Their yield was almost doubled by some varieties. Further testing is needed and is in progress to determine the extent of this difference. Unfortunately, a high yielding berry with outstanding fresh fruit quality is still unavailable.

Apple Sports

We have discontinued the propagation of the Lyman sport of Delicious, since it just didn't color, and there is no longer much call for them. Everyone wants double reds now.

We have a new sport of McIntosh in our test block at Benton Harbor, Michigan, that is very promising. We call it Steele's Scarlet McIntosh. The original tree, now dead, was Farley No. 5, and had one limb that produced fruit with considerably more bright color than that from the parent variety. We budded a few trees this year to get them out among our growers in southwestern Michigan.—*Jack D. McIntosh, Greening Nursery Co., Monroe, Michigan.*

Redskin Peach

A great deal of additional information on Redskin was obtained last year. In large plantings at Henderson, Kentucky and Oaktown, Indiana, this variety ripened three to four days ahead of Elberta, although it is supposed to ripen with Elberta. Eight hundred bushels of Redskin from the Cardinal Farms at Henderson, Kentucky, going to northern markets brought premium prices and requests for additional shipments. The same variety at Oaktown failed to bring a premium over Elberta, but was very favorably received.—*C. L. Burkholder, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*