Three New Varieties of Strawberries

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Three new varieties of strawberries Earlidawn, Redglow, and Surecrop were introduced October 1, 1956, for commercial use. Earlidawn and Redglow resulted from breeding work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, and Surecrop from the cooperative work of the U.S.D.A. and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Maryland Research Farm, Salisbury, Maryland. W. F. Jeffers and I. C. Haut were in charge of the Maryland program. A number of men from the various State Agricultural Experiment Stations who were especially helpful in the evaluation of the varieties described, deserve special mention. Among them are R. G. Hill, Ohio; Jules Janick, Indiana; W. D. Armstrong, Kentucky; H. K. Fleming, Pennsylvania; W. A. Mathews and Ralph Ruppenthal, Maryland; and A. P. French, Massachusetts.

Plants of all three varieties are available from a number of nurserymen.

Earlidawn, tested as US–3939, originated as a seedling from a cross of Midland x Tennessee Shipper. It has been observed in fruiting tests each year since its selection in 1948.

Earlidawn is a very early variety, ripening about five days before Blakemore and Howard 17. In 1955, when there was no frost during blossoming of strawberries at Beltsville, 57 percent of the total crop of Earlidawn was ripe by May 28 (the first three pickings) compared with 22 percent for Blakemore, 27 percent for Howard 17, and 9 percent for Tennessee Beauty.

Earlidawn has short flower stems so that its blooms are well covered by leaves and thus protected against frost, and its flowers appear to be as hardy as Howard 17, or hardier. The berry is a light, bright red. The fruits are glossy, firmer than Howard 17, with large average size and a good tart flavor, and well adapted to freezing.

The plants have been very productive in replicated tests in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Plants of Earlidawn do not produce runners freely unless grown on fertile soil, and are not resistant to red stele. Earliness and large average size of fruit are the chief merits of the variety.

Redglow, tested as US–4194, resulted from a cross of Fairland x Tennessee Shipper. It was selected in the fruiting season of 1949 at Beltsville.

Redglow is an early-ripening variety of about the same season as Blakemore. Its berries are a vivid red, very glossy, highly flavored, and of large uniform size throughout the picking season. The flesh is about as firm as Earlidawn but not so firm as Blakemore. Redglow is very satisfactory for freezing.

Plants of Redglow are very vigorous, produce runners freely, are susceptible to leaf spot and are moderately productive. They are resistant to the common race of the red stele fungus. The variety has yielded satisfactorily in tests in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

Attractive uniform-sized highly flavored fruit combined with red-stele-resistance are the most important char-

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TABLE 1. Ratings[1] of characters of Earlidawn, Redglow, and Surecrop strawberries in comparison with those of older varieties on basis of performance in Maryland.

Variety	Size	Firm-ness	Smooth-ness	Color	Gloss	Runner produc-tion	Produc-tivity	Flavor
Albritton (S)[3]	8	9	10	8	9	6		
Armore (S)	8	6	6	7	7			
Blakemore (S)	6	8	8	9	9			
Dixieland (S)	8	10	9	8	9			
Earlidawn (S)	8	7	7	10	9			
Jerseybelle (S)	9	6	9	8	9			
Pocahontas (S)	8	7	7	8	8			
Redglow (R)	8	7	8	9	10			
Stelemaster (R)	7	8	8	8	8			
Surecrop (R)	8	8	7	9	8			
Tenessee Beauty (S)	6	8	9	8	8			
Vermilion (R)	7	5	7	8	8			

[1]A rating of 1 is least desirable and of 10 most desirable.
[2]In ratings for season 10 indicates a very early ripening variety and 4 a late variety
[3]S indicates plants susceptible to red stele; R, resistant to red stele.

acteristics of the variety.

Surecrop, tested as Md–US–2233, originated as a seedling from a cross of Fairland x Md–US–1972 (Blakemore x Md–US–683). It was selected in the fruiting season of 1951 at Salisbury, Maryland.

Surecrop is a midseason variety that ripens about the same time as Fairland and Temple. The berries have large average size throughout the picking season and are firmer than Earlidawn and Redglow. The color of the fruit is a bright red that does not darken as the berries ripen. The berries have a tough, glossy surface that retains good appearance for fresh market. Their flavor is tart and good.

Plants of Surecrop are very vigorous, produce many runners, and are resistant to three races of the red stele fungus, but not so resistant as Stelemaster to one of the new races. The plants have been productive in limited tests in Maryland, Ohio, and Indiana. Further testing is needed to determine the regional adaptation and general usefulness of Surecrop.

Relative ratings for different characters of these three new varieties compared with those for nine other varieties are given in Table 1. The ratings are based on performance in Maryland.

J. C. Chambers, part-time fruit grower, of Lexington, Kentucky, tells us that he has found that the peach varieties that we grow to sell are not always the ones we want for our own tables. The ones he prefers to eat from his own orchard include Golden East, Hale Harrison, Brilliant, Southland, Shinn's Delicious, Burbank's July Elberta, Hiley and Belle of Georgia.

A pear variety named Packham's Triumph is now being imported from Argentina in increasing quantities,