

REVIEWS and ABSTRACTS



Tennessean Strawberry

Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 105, August 1950

By BROOKS D. DRAIN and W. E. ROEVER

The Tennessean strawberry (formerly tested as Tennessee 965) originated at the West Tennessee Experiment Station at Jackson, in 1942, as a cross made by Dr. J. P. Overcash between two station seedlings. Its parentage is Tennessee 230 x Tennessee 586. [Tennessee 230, a cross of Missionary x Howard 17 (Premier), was the pollen parent of Tennessee 586, the seed parent in this cross being Tennessee 78. Tennessee 78 was a cross of Klondike x Aroma.]

This seedling first fruited in 1945 and was at once selected as promising. Its long-shaped, glossy, attractive fruit appeals to the casual observer. Season of ripening is influenced by the amount of cold injury to strawberry blossoms, but usually the fruit ripens ahead of Blakemore as much as two pickings

more or less. Time of blossoming is somewhat later than that for Blakemore which often results in less cold injury. A count of blossoms and buds killed on 125 feet of row following a severe freeze February 1 and 2, 1950, was 61 for Tennessean and 152 for Blakemore. Late blooming combined with early ripening appeals to many strawberry growers. A yield plot of Tennessean in 1947 produced at the rate of 382 crates per acre compared with 344 for Tennessee Shipper and 325 for Blakemore on nearby plots. There was severe cold injury to blossoms of all varieties in 1949 and 1950. In the latter season, a nursery planting at Knoxville (Fig. 1) produced at the rate of 146 crates per acre, which was more than any other variety grown nearby. The West Tennessee Station secured a



Fig. 1—A nursery planting of Tennesseean strawberry. The average length of 105 runners on 20 plants measured December 2 was $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The mother plants were planted 30 inches by 54 inches to permit all runner plants to set. The picture was taken September 21 and the rows were well filled at that time.

yield of 248 crates per acre on a $1/9$ acre plot. A yield test replicated four times at the same station averaged 224 crates per acre for Tennesseean compared with 135 for Blakemore. All things considered, tests up to the present time indicate that this variety will be a good yielder.

A good variety should run high in U. S. No. 1 fruit. The season of 1950 was unfavorable with all varieties having much cold injury and rots. Table 1 presents two scorings for Tennesseean compared with Tennessee Beauty and Blakemore. [This table in circular shows Tennesseean with 67.37 and 49.60 percent U. S. No. 1 at May 19 and May 26, 1950

pickings. Comparable percentages of No. 1 fruit were 60.17 and 37.43 for Blakemore, 48.88 and 53.86 for Tennessee Beauty.] A long-shaped berry tends to have a shorter diameter than one approaching round. However, Tennesseean compares favorably with other standard varieties on grade of fruit produced.

Frozen pack trials were started in cooperation with the Department of General Chemistry in 1947 and continued up to the present time. A select panel of processors and persons familiar with strawberries have scored this berry in comparison with other standard varieties. Tennesseean has a slightly hollow

core which may be objectionable for certain packs, although it seems to be all right for a sliced pack. Flavor and appearance scored high. The group concluded that the variety would be acceptable for this purpose. A large part of the Tennessee crop is frozen-packed and this variety should be given careful consideration for this purpose.

Tennessean tends to run somewhat larger fruited than Blakemore. It averaged 84 berries per box, Blakemore 99, and Tennessee Shipper 111. A count of the number

of berries per box, field run, made in 1950 averaged 109, 125, 146, and 174 on successively later picking dates. The long-shaped, glossy berries of the Tennessean are very attractive. Figure 2 illustrates this shape, including the large, reflex calyx.

Tennessean appears about the equal of Blakemore as a plant-maker. Figure 1 shows a nursery planting that was given more than normal spacing. A very large number of runner plants developed and the rows were filled.

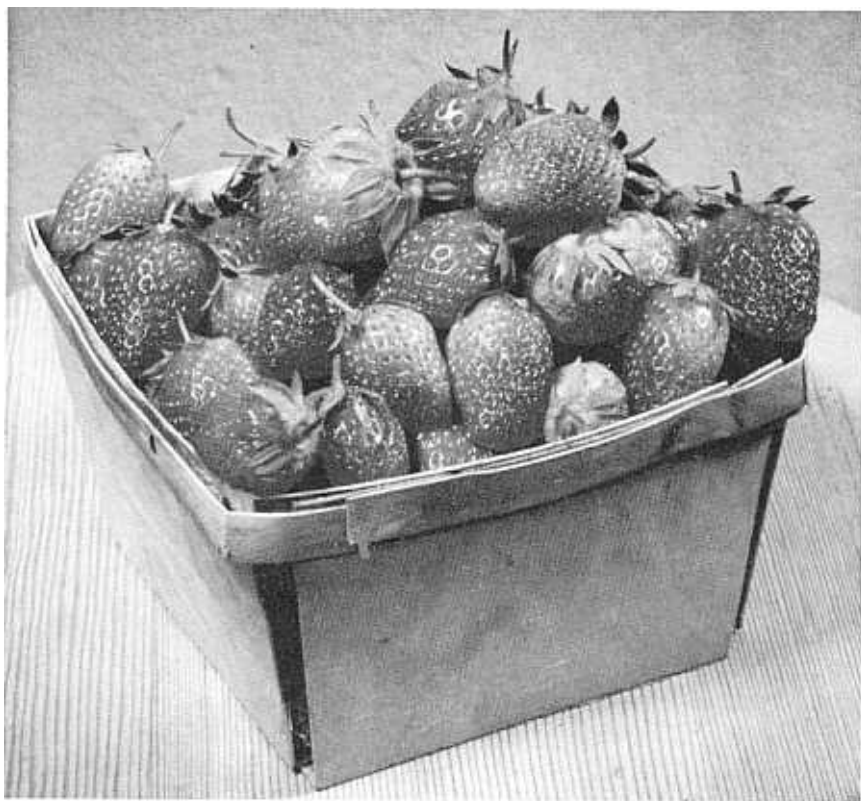


Fig. 2—A box of Tennessean strawberries. The long-shaped, glossy fruits with a large calyx (cap) are very attractive.