Midway, a New Red Stele Resistant Strawberry Variety

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Midway, a new strawberry variety, has been released by the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

The Midway (tested as Md-US-2389) originated from a cross of Dixieland × Temple, made in 1951, and first selected in 1953 at Salisbury, Maryland. Midway is a midseason to late-ripening variety, being midseason on a light or medium silt loam soil, and nearly as late as Sparkle on a heavy silt loam or clay loam soil. Midway does not perform satisfactorily on light sandy soils, but plants are vigorous and productive on medium to heavy silt loam soils.

The berries average medium-large in size, comparing favorably with those of Surecrop, and maintain good size during the picking season. They have a uniform, deep red color, with a glossy surface, firm skin, firm flesh, and yellow seeds. Berries are irregular-conic to blunt-conic in shape, and are smoother when plants are grown on silt loam soils than on sandy or droughty soils. Flavor is sub-acid. Berries have good dessert quality, and have been satisfactory in frozen pack.

Plants of Midway are moderately vigorous, produce many runners, and are resistant to the common race (A–1) of red stele, but leaves are somewhat susceptible to leaf scorch and leaf spot. However, when nursery stocks were free of spot and scorch, plants in fruiting fields remained relatively free for two to three years. The plants have been productive when grown in narrow, matted rows at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, and at the University of Maryland Research Farm, Salisbury, Maryland.

Midway has been tested rather extensively in central and northeastern United States, and appears to be fairly widely adapted. Table II indicates Midway's performance at eight locations where tests were conducted with replicated plots.

Midway with its firmer flesh, firm skin, uniform size of fruit, and red stele resistance, is suggested as a replacement for Temple or, in some areas, for Sparkle.

Table I. **Yields of the Midway Strawberry in 24-quart crates per acre from replicated plots in Beltsville and Salisbury, Maryland.**

Variety	Beltsville					Salisbury			
	1957	1958	1959	1960	Mean	1957	1959	1960	Mean
Midway	498	455	294	406	413	489	354	576	
Surecrop	390	339	294	379	351	530	390	629	
Blakemore	—	236	204	—	220	117	267	665	
Dixieland	398	389	346	340	368	—	—	—	

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Table II. **Ranking and fruit yields (number 24-quart crates per acre) of Midway in relation to highest yielding variety at eight locations.[1]**

Location	Year	Midway		Highest yielding variety	
		Ranking	Yield	Yield	Variety
Lafayette, Ind.	1958	3/25[2]	267	317	Catskill
Lafayette, Ind.	1959	9/24	213	296	Armore
Amherst, Mass.	1959	7/31	435	692	Orland
Sodus, Mich.	1959	4/10	238	327	Robinson
Columbia, Mo.	1958	7/27	376	491	Pocahontas
Columbia, Mo.	1959	1/25	459	459	Midway
Columbia, Mo.	1960	14/31	133	212	Surecrop
New Brunswick, N. J.	1959	1/10	381	381	Midway
Seabrook, N. J.	1958			412	Earlidawn
Wooster, Ohio	1958			760	Erie
Wooster, Ohio	1959			445	Armore
Wooster, Ohio	1960			738	Trumpeter
North East, Pa.	1958			596	Catskill

[1]Grateful acknowledgement for assistance in evaluating Midway is made to Dr. Jules Janick, Indiana; Prof. J. S. Bailey, Mass.; Dr. Harry Bell, Mich.; Dr. D. D. Hemphill, Mo.; Dr. Carter Smith and Mr. Vernon Ichisaka, New Jersey; Dr. Robert Hill, Jr., Ohio; Prof. H. K. Fleming, Pa.; and Mr. W. A. Matthews, Salisbury, Md.

[2]The 3/25 indicates that Midway was the third highest yielding variety of 25 tested.

Conference on Handling Perishable Agricultural Commodities

The 15th National Conference on Handling Perishable Commodities will be held at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, March 20 through March 23, 1961. The objectives of the conference are to bring together those persons interested in striking directly at preventable losses and damages in the transportation of perishable fruits and vegetables.

This conference is sponsored by Purdue University, the Association of American Railways, and the American Railway Development Association, with the cooperation of Railway Inspection Agencies and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Programs may be obtained from the Department of Horticulture of Purdue University.

Sports of Jonathan in Virginia

We have tested about a half dozen red sports of Jonathan in our variety orchard. But we seldom have difficulty in obtaining satisfactory fruit color on even the standard strains of Jonathan under our conditions. Our elevation of approximately 2200 feet above sea level permits satisfactory fruit color development except in seasons that are exceptionally warm (as was the case in 1959), or under conditions of heavy nitrogen applications to the trees. We believe that the Jon-a-red sport of Jonathan is at least as good as any other sport of Jonathan that we have tested. In some years the color on Jon-a-red is superior to the fruit color of other strains. Blackjon also has been a satisfactory performer under eastern conditions.—*G. D. Oberle, Va. Polytech. Inst., Blacksburg, Va.*