

tion by a pathological organism was detected.

All plots were scored for apparent root damage and also for condition of the above ground portions of the plant. The scoring and data on yields and plant stand are presented in Table I. In general the scoring for condition of the roots agreed closely with the scoring given for condition of the above ground portions of the plant. In most cases the condition of the roots agreed closely with the yields of berries obtained; but several noteworthy exceptions should be pointed out. Dixieland and Earldawn showed considerable root injury but were among the better yielding varieties included in the test. Redstar and Robinson showed no root injury and had vigorous top growth

but had below average yields of berries. Redstar is below average in runner production at Blacksburg, and many of its blossoms do not set berries at Blacksburg, which may explain its mediocre performance in the test.

It appears that root condition was an important factor associated with strawberry yields in the 1959 trials at Blacksburg. The root damage probably resulted from the sudden drop in temperature to 10° F. on November 30, 1958 after a rather moderate fall season with conditions favorable for late fall growth of the berry plants. It appears possible that varieties such as Pocohontas, Blakemore and Howard 17 may be slower in acquiring dormancy in the fall season than other varieties such as Empire, Surecrop, Fletcher and Catskill.



Trumpeter, a New Strawberry

A new June-bearing strawberry variety named Trumpeter has been introduced by the University of Minnesota. This very promising variety is the product of a cross of Burgundy (female parent) and a selection resulting from the inbreeding of Premier. The plants are tall, hardy, very vigorous, resistant to roots rots and foliage diseases. Yields have been satisfactory, according to A. Wilcox, of the University of Minnesota. It appears to do well on many kinds of soil.

The fruit is large, conical, with attractive red skin and flesh, which is firm and of good flavor. It matures late, and stores well. In tests for freezing quality, Trumpeter has rated very high when the cut berries were packed in sugar. The frozen slices retained their shape, color and flavor very well.

Trumpeter appears to be a general-purpose strawberry well worth trying in the northern states.

Moongold and Sungold Apricots

Two hardy apricot varieties, Moongold and Sungold, have been introduced by the University of Minnesota. They are crosses of the variety Superb and Manchu, a seedling selection of a Manchurian species collected by N. E. Hanson. They are adapted to northern regions of high rainfall. Moongold and Sungold are both very hardy, vigorous, productive, resistant to diseases. Both are self-unfruitful and should be planted together or with other apricot varieties. The fruit of both varieties are medium-sized, freestone, have very good quality for eating fresh, for jam and preserves, and are suitable for canning. They ripen in late July or early August, and hang on the tree well until fully ripe. The fruit of Moongold are earlier than Sungold, have a more sprightly flavor, thicker and tougher skin, and are oblate in shape in contrast to the longer fruit of Sungold.