

The Everbearing Strawberry

OSCAR ROCKHILL

Larchwood, Iowa

The Everbearing Strawberry at one time was a fantastic dream. Then all at once it came into being. Omitting the details of its early history, I will speak briefly of its introduction and development.

The original everbearer was a spontaneous outburst of nature, "Pan American". It was a small plant which overbore at the expense of the plant. The few new runner plants started bearing shortly after taking root.

Much work was then done by plant breeders over the country. The first successful everbearer to attract much attention was Progressive, introduced by Harlow Rockhill, of Conrad, Iowa in 1908. It was a cross of Pan American \times Dunlap. It was a larger, stronger plant than Pan American, with a better balance between fruit production and plant making, with a berry of about Dunlap quality. A row of these plants, set two feet apart in the row in the spring, would make a fairly good row of plants, all bearing through August and September. The green and ripe berries, picked just the night before Jack Frost gets them, make fine pies. Some of the most productive and most popular everbearers tested at Iowa State University, at Ames, of recent years, have been Superfection, Brilliant, and Gem, all direct descendants of Progressive.

The next everbearer to become popular and create general acceptance of the everbearing strawberry from coast to coast was Rockhill (Wayzata), a cross of Progressive by Early Jersey Giant, and introduced by Harlow Rockhill in 1918. A berry of good size, and high quality, Rockhill is quite disease resistant, a little short on plant

making, but very good for hill culture. Quoting from Dr. George M. Darrow in the 1937 Year Book of Agriculture, "It (Rockhill) is quite disease resistant and one of the highest dessert quality strawberries in the United States". The two very popular berries, Twentieth Century and Red Rich, are descendants of Rockhill (Wayzata).

Some of the newer varieties of everbearers do not start bearing until fall approaches. I think it is due to the fact that they are too far from the original everbearer in their parentage.



Franklin Apple

According to F. S. Howlett and T. E. Fowler, of Ohio State University, the Franklin apple now has a definite place in northern Ohio for roadside and local market. It is an attractive, red, juicy, mild, sub-acid apple, combining certain characteristics of each of its parents, Delicious and McIntosh.

Franklin blooms slightly after and is harvested two weeks after McIntosh. Studies with Franklin since it was introduced 20 years ago indicate it requires regular thinning-out pruning and only light applications of nitrogen fertilizers, for best fruit color. Because the fruit tends to be soft, its harvest cannot be delayed; nor can it be handled roughly at all. For the same reason, it is not recommended for wholesale production.