

best, it is surpassed by none. Suwannee may equal it, and is of the highest flavor under more conditions than is Fairfax. However, all stocks of Suwannee have virus, and it is becoming extinct. Fairfax is a good, but not excessive plant maker, fairly resistant to leaf diseases, susceptible to red stele root diseases, and not tolerant to some virus diseases. Its flowers produce the most pollen of any of the well known varieties. The berries are good sized, very uniform in shape, deep red in color, fairly firm, the least acid of the common varieties, and moderately productive. In excessively hot, dry weather the berries may have a bitter flavor, and when over-ripe, they may turn an objectionable purplish-red. Fairfax is severely injured by virus and infected plants are stunted and make few runners. However, since virus-free stocks have become available, good plant beds are easily obtained, and it is being grown more extensively than a few years ago.

Fairfax is subject to fasciation in the South, so that Maryland is about the southern limit of its area of adaptation. In tests of its response to photoperiod and rest period, it has responded best to a long rest period. Because of its very high flavor, it is highly prized for home garden and local market use from southern New England to Maryland and west to Illinois. It may be picked at an earlier stage of ripeness than most other sorts.

At least 23 varieties have been introduced with Fairfax as one parent (See Table I), and at least 38 others with Fairfax in their ancestry (See Table II). Sparkle, Siletz, Jerseybelle, Red Rich, Temple, Fairland, and Redstar are the better known of the descendants of Fairfax, Surecrop and Midway are new varieties of considerable promise derived in part from Fairfax.

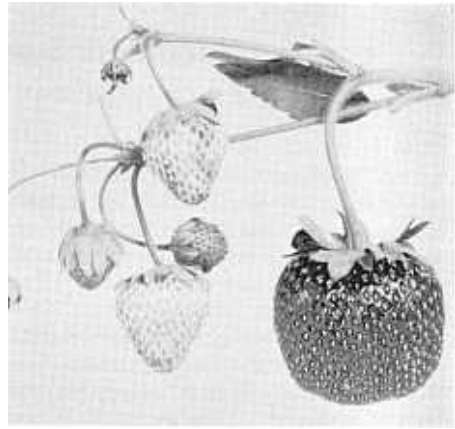


Fig. 1. Fairfax strawberry cluster, showing the light seed on dark skin.

In breeding, Fairfax has been a good parent for excellent dessert quality and freedom from leaf spot. Its excellent quality is the result of a combination of flavors inherited from both parents, and its freedom from leaf spot is derived from Howard 17. Fairfax plants have also been sold under the names Black, Grandview, and Kummerbund.



Strawberry Varieties for Long Island

Deane D. Lewin, recently made some interesting observations on performance of strawberry varieties for Long Island, N. Y. (New Jersey Hort. News). **Midland**, now a leading variety because of high yield and quality, is susceptible to certain diseases. **Empire** is a leading midseason variety, with good size and color, although a bit soft. **Surecrop**, very attractive, yields and ships well, and may replace Empire. **Sparkle** still important—best flavored, heavy yielder. **Jerseybelle**—most promising.