

The Clara Frijs Pear

'Clara Frijs' is an old Danish pear, and still one of the most popular varieties in Denmark. However, it does not seem to have had any circulation in other countries.

This variety was first described by J. A. Bentzen in the Danish garden journal, *Dansk Høgetidende*, in 1858. Several trees of Clara Frijs were found by Count Carlsen in the Danish village of Skensved, but its true origin is unknown.

The fruit of Clara Frijs is of medium size, about 115 grams (4 oz.) per fruit. The skin is very smooth, and highly resistant, if not immune, to russetting. The ground-color is bright green which later becomes a uniform yellow. It occasionally has a pink cheek. The fruit is fine in quality, very juicy, sweet, with good flavor. Doyenne du Comice and Clara Frijs are the highest priced pears in Denmark.

In the variety trials at Blangstedgaard, Clara Frijs has been one of the most productive varieties, although it shows a tendency toward biennial bearing. Fruit thinning is often necessary. Its picking date is mid-September, some three weeks before Conference.

Clara Frijs is compatible with quince, and has for many years been commonly used as an interstock for incompatible pear varieties grafted on quince.

This variety keeps well for about two months at 0° C. Longer storage reduces dessert quality.

Fire blight is not known in Denmark, therefore nothing is known about its susceptibility to this disease.

Most of the Clara Frijs trees in Denmark are infected with vein-yellow virus. However, virus-free material is being propagated by the State

Department of Plant Pathology. Propagation material should be available within two or three years.—*J. Vittrup Christensen, Blangstedgaard, Odense, Denmark.*



Midway and Ozark Beauty, Promising Strawberry Varieties

Midway and Ozark Beauty are two new strawberry varieties which appear promising in the Midwest.

Midway (Dixieland × Temple), released by the U.S.D.A. to growers in 1960, is a red stele-resistant June bearing variety, and an outstanding performer in Purdue variety tests. It has consistently been one of the higher yielding varieties. The large attractive fruit has prominent seeds, and is firm, with smooth texture and satisfactory quality. Berries are slightly rough in the early season harvests. Plants runner well to produce a well-matted row. Midway is moderately resistant to leaf scorch, and resistant to leaf spot.

Ozark Beauty, an everbearing strawberry variety developed in Arkansas, has appeared very promising in everbearing variety trial plantings in the Midwest. In Purdue tests in 1961, it appeared obviously superior to other everbearer varieties evaluated (Chief Bemeiji, Ogallala, Streamliner and Red Rich). The wedge-shaped fruit was firm, glossy, had good quality, red flesh and had prominent yellow achenes. The small calyx stands up on the berry. Plants produced few runners, but were more prolific than Red Rich or Streamliner. *Jerome Hull, Jr. & Jules Janick, Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue University.*