

COMMERCIAL STRAWBERRY VARIETIES IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

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The following data are presented as a five-year summary (1942-46) of yields for variety test plots at the Western Kentucky Experiment Station. The varieties are listed in order of ripening. Yields are in crates per acre.

Blakemore	180
Tennessee Shipper	155
Aroma	73
Tennessee Beauty	185

Blakemore appears to possess sufficient vigor to establish a good row of fruiting plants most any season. Old fields come through late summer drouths in fairly good condition. During two very dry summers, Tennessee Shipper plants died out badly after the first harvest while Blakemore plants survived.

The majority of growers like Tennessee Shipper and plan to increase their plantings. This variety produces its fruit on strong stems which hold the berries off the ground.

The Tennessee Beauty is a high yielding variety which produces firmer and more attractive shipping berries than Aroma and approaches this latter variety in size. Although Tennessee Beauty needs to be tested more extensively, it has generally produced a good row of plants and seems to be generally superior to Aroma and Tennessee Shipper in this respect. The plants of Tennessee Beauty are deep rooted and bear large crops of berries which need a straw mulch to help keep the fruit clean. The Tennessee Beauty

produces heavily the second fruiting year.

The Situation in Brief

Summarizing, Blakemore is the most dependable early shipping berry to date, and if yellows can be kept from the variety and the plants kept from becoming too thick, it will be hard to replace. The Tennessee Shipper, about one picking later than the Blakemore, is showing promise as a companion variety to Blakemore. Tennessee Beauty is showing great promise as a late variety and has a good chance to replace Aroma in western Kentucky and is showing promise up-state.

The Tennessee Supreme has given heavier yields than any of the other new introductions but produces a soft berry which is unsuited for commercial shipping but is favored by many for home use, local sales, and quick freezing.

All of the varieties mentioned above have been observed suffering from the red stele root rot disease and are, therefore, not resistant under Kentucky conditions.—W.P.J.

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