

The National Strawberry Variety Survey

By John T. Bregger, Chairman
Variety Appraisal Committee

The strawberry is probably the most "National" fruit in America. Grown at least semi-commercially in every state of the Union, it is more widespread in its adaptation than any of our tree or bush fruits.

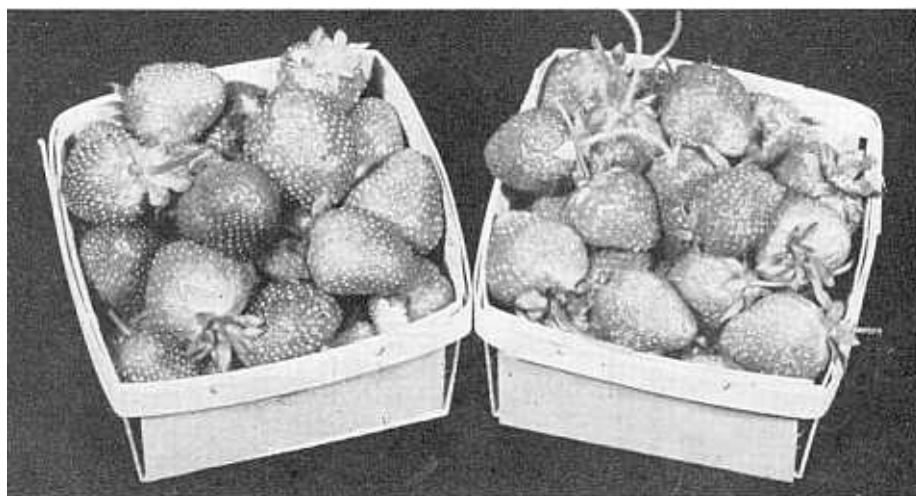
In direct contrast to the foregoing situation, strawberry varieties have much more limited adaptation. In other words a strawberry variety that does well in the North will not produce satisfactorily in the South and vice versa. The cause of this phenomenon is the length of day factor which regulates vegetative growth and fruiting in relation to the genetic makeup of each plant or variety.

New varieties of strawberries have practically taken over the industry in

some parts of the country while in others the old varieties "reign supreme". We find the latter situation in Florida, for instance, where the Missionary variety has a virtual monopoly in both new and old plantings. In Tennessee on the other hand, a large majority of growers are favoring Blakemore, with Tennessee Supreme a second choice. These two varieties were originated by a Federal and a State Experiment Station respectively, and along with one or two other new sorts, have almost wholly replaced the old varieties in the Tennessee-Kentucky area.

Tabular Data Presented

Two tables have been prepared to show how variety preferences differ between two important sections of the country. In the Northeast, the state surveys of Massachusetts, Connecticut,



Sparkle (left) and Temple (right) are promising new strawberries which are resistant to Red Stele root rot disease.

New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland have been pooled. In the Upper Mississippi Valley, most of the data comes from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa and Kansas. Since both of these areas are in the North, there is much more similarity in the varieties chosen than between any northern and any southern area.

Scattered State Reports

Because of scattered returns, no more group or area summaries are presented. However a few individual states will be mentioned in addition to Tennessee and Florida.

Oregon strawberry growers favor the continued planting of Marshall above all other varieties combined. Idaho growers, in adjacent territory, place Dorsett first for future plantings. In Louisiana new varieties are becoming popular quite rap-

idly with the main interest centered on Klommore and Konvoy, though not to the abandonment of Klondike which has for many years been the leading variety of the state. Kentucky, adjacent to Tennessee, has gone more "all out" for Tennessee introductions than has Tennessee herself. Oklahoma and Akransas, like Tennessee, lean heavily toward Blake more. This is also true of Alabama where Klommore and Missionary rate next.

It is surprising how much contrasting opinion there is between strawberry growers on the choice of a variety. Many of the newer varieties introduced for one section are finding more popularity elsewhere. The demand for a firm berry which will stand shipping has eliminated from commercial production many otherwise superior varieties. In other sections, however, these softer varieties may be

GROWER EVALUATION OF STRAWBERRY VARIETIES

Upper Mississippi Valley States (Wisc., Mich., Ohio, Iowa, Kan.), 202 growers reporting				Northeastern states (Mass., Conn., N. Y., Pa., N. J., Md.), 95 growers reporting			
Ratio:				Ratio:			
	Now Have	Would Plant	Would Discard		Now Have	Would Plant	Would Discard
Howard 17 (Premier).....	125	9	1	Howard 17 (Premier)....	78	3	
Dunlap	63	1	1	Catskill	72	6	
Gem	38	1	3	Pathfinder	28	2	
Catskill	36	1 1/2	1	Fairfax	24	1	2
Blakemore	35	1	2	Redstar	21	2	1
Beaver	25	1	1	Dorsett	18	1	4
Mastodon	19	1	4	Joe	10	1	3
Fairfax	15		4	Aberdeen	10	1	6
Aroma	14	1	2	Chesapeake	9	1	4
Dorsett	13	1	7	Dunlap	8	1	4
Rockhill (Wayzata) ...	7		3	Mastodon	5	1	5
				Blakemore	4	1	15
				Aroma	3	0	8

The figures in the ratio of growers who would plant or discard the various varieties represents the proportion who voted on this aspect of the variety rating survey.

used for local consumption — and to some extent for freezing.

Everbearing varieties are not becoming especially popular in any part of the country.

The light-colored, firm-fleshed types are in highest favor because of their superiority as preserves. Productivity is another important characteristic of a popular variety.

The table which shows the rating of strawberry varieties on the basis of State Experiment Stations recommendations indicates that comparatively few old varieties rank among the leaders. The outstanding exception is Howard 17 (or Premier), definitely the "Elberta" of the strawberry world.

Variety	No. of States Recommending Planting
Howard 17 (Premier)	22
Catskill	15
Blakemore	14
Fairfax	10
Gem	10
Dorsett	
Dunlap	8
Klondike	8
Rockhill (Wayzata)	8
Missionary	7
Marshall	6
Aroma	
Mastodon	
Midland	
Pathfinder	
Aberdeen	
Chesapeake	
Red Star	
Temple	3



Experience With Sweet Cherry Varieties

By Walter R. Clarke, *grower*
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The sweet cherry is particularly sensitive to its location, even to its place on the individual farm. This fact, and the need of new and better varieties to compete in the commercial markets, have narrowly limited the growing of sweet cherries in New York State. Fifty years ago most villagers had a tree or two in their back yards, and many farms had a dozen or more sweet cherries planted along the stone fences. This has all

passed, and we seldom hear of such old varieties as Coe's Transparent, Governor Wood, Black Eagle, Downers Late Red or Yellow Spanish.

Standard Varieties

The standard varieties are now Black Tartarian, Windsor and Schmidt. We need new varieties to extend the season and to improve the quality of fruit, so that we may compete with the cherries coming from the west coast. With this in mind we have been planting three other varieties on our farms in the Hudson