

*Vernon*—Red. Medium firm. With Bing.

*Walkers Early Bing*—No good.

*Werdersche Marktkirsche*—(probably Werdersche Mai.) Black. Firm. Good.

*Zeisberger Reisenkirsche*—White.

A comment should perhaps be added with respect to the outstanding performance of Spate Braune (Late Brown) in the author's garden in Southeastern Michigan. This variety

has proven to be prolific in bearing, very large to large in size, with crisp, solid, juicy red flesh of fine flavor that crunches to the bite, and with a beautiful mirror-like dark red skin that has been as crack-resistant as any in my collection. I rated it best among this season's cherry varieties. Spate Braune is a local variety from the Rhineland foothills and was obtained from the Christian Fey Nurseries near Bonn, Germany.

## Who Wants the White Carolina Strawberry?

GEORGE M. DARROW\*

Of considerable interest, historic, if not economic, is the White Carolina strawberry, a parent of Keens Imperial, which in turn was a parent of Keens Seedling, which originated in 1819, and was the first modern strawberry. This White Carolina, if true to name, is apparently different from the original first known cultivated hybrid strawberry, the Old Pine (Carolina), described and figured by Miller in 1759 in England. Old Pine is described as bright scarlet with light red flesh, while the White Carolina that I am growing is pink tinted with white flesh. Old Pine was described as making few runners, while White Carolina makes many runners for me at Glenn Dale.

The White Carolina that I have came to me through the courtesy of Henry Wallace and Dr. S. C. Harland. The latter, formerly Professor of Botany at the University of Manchester, England, had heard that it was being grown in the garden of A. B. Mortimer, Meath, Ireland, whose great-grandmother had grown the variety. He personally obtained plants from

Ireland and had them propagated by Frank Spinks. Both Mr. Spinks and Dr. Harland's brother retained some plants in England. Plants were received from Mr. Spinks in 1964 by the U. S. Plant Quarantine Station, and runner plants were released to me in 1965. They have made runners freely, and have borne a few small, pink-tinted berries, spring frost having killed most of the flowers. The foliage is glossy green and thick in cool weather, but dull green in the hot dry summer. It is quite susceptible to a leaf spot similar to *Dendrophoma*.

I have a few plants for those interested. It is probably not hardy, is frost susceptible; the fruit is very soft, and tinted pink-lavender. But it is the earliest ancestor of the cultivated strawberry of which we know. For those who wish to use it in breeding for the north-eastern United States, I would suggest using a hardy *F. virginiana* or *F. ovalis* selection, and then crossing the best resulting seedling with some hardy cultivated variety.

\*Consultant with U.S.D.A., of Glenn Dale, Maryland.