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3 FRUIT GROWERS' LETTER



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By Leonard B. Hertz, extension horticulturist

March 1973

MINNESOTA STRAWBERRY AND RASPBERRY GROWERS MEET

March 26, 1973
North Star Ballroom
Student Center
St. Paul Campus

PROGRAM

- a. m. D. Wildung, presiding
- 9:00 Registration and coffee, second floor, Student Center,
St. Paul Campus
- 10:00 Analysis of advertising methods for Pick-Your-Own
strawberry enterprise..... C. Stushnoff
- 10:30 New pesticide control act and its affect on you..... P. K. Harein
- 11:00 Strawberry and raspberry disease control
recommendations..... H. G. Johnson
- 11:20 Weed control and fertility recommendations for straw-
berries and raspberries..... L. B. Hertz
- 12:00 LUNCH
- p. m. M. Brenner, presiding
- 1:30 Strawberry production in Manitoba..... P. Peterson
- 2:30 The importance of bees for strawberry and raspberry
pollination..... B. Furgala
- 3:00 Discussion
- 3:15 Coffee and adjournment

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Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

EVALUATION OF STRAWBERRY VARIETIES

One of the first problems facing the commercial or home strawberry grower is choosing the right variety to plant. The ideal strawberry would be hardy, grow in any type of soil, and produce enormous quantities of large, firm fruit (with, of course, excellent quality, fresh or frozen) at just the right time of year. No variety measures up to this standard, but some come close in one or more ways.

To help growers select the best June-bearing strawberries for Minnesota, continuing variety evaluation plantings are maintained at the Horticultural Research Center, Victoria; North Central Experiment Station, Grand Rapids; West Central Experiment Station, Morris; and the Sand Plains Experiment Field, Elk River. New plantings are made every other year and include new selections and varieties which appear suited to Minnesota growing conditions. Records are kept on growth and fruiting characteristics, including susceptibility to insects and disease, vigor, season of ripening, yield, berry size distribution, and berry quality. Berries from these plantings are also used to determine freezing quality of the fruits. Variety descriptions and a table showing yield and size of berries follow.

Early Maturing Varieties

Earlimore is a "June-bearing" introduction from Minnesota. The plants are vigorous, hardy, and are resistant to leaf spot and scorch. The fruit is attractive, medium in size, the outside color and flesh are red, berries tend to be soft. It is only an average freezer. Fruit production of this variety is high.

Cyclone is a June-bearing introduction from Iowa. The berries are large, sweet, conic, and bright red. They ripen early, are soft, but do have good freezing quality. Cyclone is winter hardy and resistant to foliage disease and is less productive than Earlimore.

Mid-season Varieties

Redcoat is a June-bearing introduction from Canada. The plants are vigorous, produce runners freely, and produce large quantities of fruit. The fruit are large sized, glossy, and light red. The berries are very firm, have good freezing qualities, and are excellent for desserts.

Surecrop is a June-bearing introduction from Maryland. The berries are large sized, firm, have a medium-red exterior and light-red interior. The freezing qualities are average. The plants are large and produce many runners, are resistant to many of the current diseases, including red stele and verticillium wilt and leaf spots. Variety is only moderately productive.

Trumpeter strawberry is a Minnesota developed June-bearer which ripens in mid-season. The fruit are medium in size, soft, glossy and have good flavor. The fruit is only fair for freezing. The plants are vigorous, winter hardy, very productive, and produce runners freely.

Midway is a June-bearing variety developed in Maryland. The berries have a firm flesh and surface, medium in size, glossy red in color, very good for freezing, and dessert. Plants produce runners freely and are productive.

Catskill originated in New York. The berries are large, skin bright crimson, flesh light red, moderately firm, probably too soft for shipping, and satisfactory for freezing. Plants are very vigorous and productive, sensitive to virus diseases and produce runners freely.

Sparkle originated in New Jersey. Berries are medium sized, skin dark red, flesh soft, fruit quality excellent for freezing. Plant is productive and produces many runners.

Late Season Varieties

Badgerbelle is a June-bearing variety which originated in Wisconsin. The fruit is large, skin medium red, glossy, attractive, flesh medium red and moderately firm. Fruit quality is fair for freezing, but excellent for fresh fruit. The plant is vigorous, forms runners easily, and is consistently productive.

Yield and Average Size of Strawberries Grown at
Three Locations in Minnesota, 1969-72

Variety	Horticulture Research Center		Grand Rapids		Elk River		Average berry size
	Yield lbs./acre	Rank	Yield lbs./acre	Rank	Yield lbs./acre	Rank	
Earlimore	13,955	1	8,479	3	9,469	1	Small
Cyclone	9,350	8	7,921	6	8,045	5	Medium
Redcoat	13,425	2	9,921	1	9,128	2	Large
Surecrop	9,120	9	4,437	9	6,708	9	Medium
Trumpeter	10,015	7	6,758	8	8,702	3	Medium
Midway	10,105	6	6,957	7	7,919	7	Medium
Catskill	12,600	4	9,662	2	7,248	8	Large
Sparkle	11,510	5	8,165	5	8,138	4	Medium
Badgerbelle	13,325	3	8,211	4	7,929	6	Large
Average	11,489		7,835		8,142		

The following contributed to the above strawberry variety evaluation:

Horticulture Research Center, Excelsior, MN; V. Lundquist, Leonard B. Hertz, C. Stushnoff

North Central Experiment Station, Grand Rapids, MN; D. Wildung

Sand Plains Experiment Field, Elk River, MN; Glenn Titrud



AN APPLE A DAY

"Eve knew what she was doing when she tempted Adam with an apple--it is reported to be the best possible cure for banishing hangovers and that 'morning after' feeling. The malic acid it contains is also said to dissolve deposits of lime in the body to guard against rheumatism, fibrositis, and arthritis. The juice from an apple leaves an alkaline residue in the body which aids recovery from colds, influenza, and virus infections. An apple is also more efficient than a toothbrush for cleaning teeth and gums; a toothbrush has a 64 percent efficiency rate compared with the apple's 95.5 percent. And the humble fruit is a pretty good food for slimmers. An apple contains an average of only 60 calories, compared with over 300 in a bar of chocolate and 138 in an ounce of biscuits."

From the Orchardist of New Zealand.

STRAWBERRY NUTRITION¹

Seven thousand quarts of strawberries per acre is about three fourths of a quart per one foot or row. This harvest will remove about 16 pounds of nitrogen, 12 pounds of phosphorous, and 30 pounds of potash from each acre. Small amounts of minor elements will also be lost. G. C. Klingbeil, University of Wisconsin extension horticulturist, says the best time to replace these elements is at the time of renovation.

PESTICIDE CONTAINERS¹

The National Agricultural Chemicals Association suggests a procedure for cleaning pesticide containers based on the technique used by laboratories to reduce the concentration of material in a container.

After normal emptying, the container should be allowed to drain in a vertical position for 30 seconds. For best results the container should be rinsed 3 times, allowing 30 seconds for draining after each rinse.

Rinse materials should be easily measurable. Water or other diluting material being used in the spray program should be used to rinse the container. Use one quart for each rinse of a 1-gallon can or jug; a gallon for each 5-gallon can, and 5 gallons for either 30- or 55-gallon drums. Drain each rinse into the spray tank before filling it to the desired level. Pesticide containers should not be reused. Dispose of the container in accordance with local policy.

¹ Agrichemical Age/September 1972
