Strawberry Cultivar Trial

Patrick O'Malley  
_Iowa State University_

Kenneth T. Pecinovsky  
_Iowa State University_, kennethp@iastate.edu

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Strawberry Cultivar Trial

Abstract
The purpose of this multi-year study is to compare the performance of newer strawberry cultivars with popular Iowa-grown older cultivars under soil and environmental conditions at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture
Strawberry Cultivar Trial

Patrick O’Malley, extension commercial horticulture field specialist
Ken Pecinovsky, farm superintendent

Introduction
The purpose of this multi-year study is to compare the performance of newer strawberry cultivars with popular Iowa-grown older cultivars under soil and environmental conditions at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm.

Materials and Methods
The strawberry trial consists of eight June-bearing cultivars, including the newer cultivars Primetime, Northeastern, Winona, and Mesabi. The trial was planted in May, 2002. Standard cultural practices were used, including mulching for winter protection.

Results and Discussion
In 2006, Jewel had the highest yield, but the overall average yield of the trial was less than in previous years. Part of this decline may be explained by age of planting. Yields were down considerably in 2006 and 2004 when compared with 2003. Reductions in all three years were attributed in part to spring frost and freeze events that damaged most of the king berries. Spring frost protection may be necessary in most years for full crops to be harvested at this location. In both the average of the three frost/freeze limiting years and in 2003, Jewel, Mesabi, Kent, and Honeyoye were the best performers.

Acknowledgments
Strawberry plants graciously provided by Indiana Berry and Plant Company, Huntingburg, IN.

Table 1. Strawberry cultivar yield for 2006 and 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>2006 yield (lb/acre)</th>
<th>2006 and 2004 yield (lb/acre avg.)</th>
<th>2003 yield (lb/acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewel</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>26,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>27,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeyoye</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>27,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glooscap</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>19,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesabi</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td>34,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winona</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>9,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primetime</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>15,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average lb/acre</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>21,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Means of three replications.