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Strawberry Variety Trial

Patrick O'Malley
Iowa State University

Kenneth T. Pecinovsky
Iowa State University, kennethp@iastate.edu

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Strawberry Variety Trial

Abstract
Several new strawberry varieties have been released in the last several years by the USDA and other breeding programs. The purpose of this multi-year study is to compare the performance of these newer varieties against the current widely used varieties in Iowa under soil and environmental conditions existing at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture
Strawberry Variety Trial

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

Introduction
Several new strawberry varieties have been released in the last several years by the USDA and other breeding programs. The purpose of this multi-year study is to compare the performance of these newer varieties against the current widely used varieties in Iowa under soil and environmental conditions existing at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm.

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

Results and Discussion
For this first year harvest, Mesabi, a new variety, had the highest yield and the third largest berry size. Kent, Honeyoye, and Jewel, all current commercial Iowa varieties, had similar high yields with Jewel having the largest berry size. Winona might be a quality late season berry, but was the second lowest yielder in this trial. Part of the low yield might be explained by a poor stand in two of the three reps due to poor quality plants in the initial planting. Primetime also had poor stands in two reps and may not have had a representative yield. Glooscap showed the least amount of leaf spot, followed by Mesabi and Northeastern. Based on the trial for this year, the two varieties that performed best in both yield and berry size were Mesabi and Jewel.

Acknowledgments
Strawberry plants were graciously provided by Indiana Berry & Plant Co., Huntingburg, IN (http://www.inberry.com/).

Table 1. Strawberry variety yield and berry weight for 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield lbs./acre</th>
<th>Avg. berry weight (g)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mesabi</td>
<td>34,130</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>27,755</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeyoye</td>
<td>27,745</td>
<td>17.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewel</td>
<td>26,185</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glooscap</td>
<td>19,149</td>
<td>14.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primetime</td>
<td>15,755</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winona</td>
<td>9,855</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>8,725</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means of three replications.
*Average weight from first three harvests.