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Strawberry Variety Trial

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

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture

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Introduction

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Materials and Methods

The strawberry trial consists of nine June-bearing varieties, including the newer varieties *Primetime, Mohawk, Winona,* and *Delmarvel.* The trial was planted on April 25, 1998. Standard cultivation practices were used, including mulching for winter protection.

Results and Discussion

For this third year harvest (2001), *Kent*, an industry standard, had the highest yield but only the sixth-largest berry size. *Primetime* appeared to be the most promising new variety, its yield being fifth in 1999, fourth in 2000, and fifth in 2001. *Mohawk* may have potential as an early berry, but, unfortunately, even the king berry has a relatively small size. *Winona* might be a quality late-season berry, but it was the third-lowest yielder. Based on this year's trial, *Cavendish* and *Jewel* were the two varieties that performed best in both yield and berry size.

Acknowledgments

Strawberry plants were provided by Indiana Berry & Plant Co., Huntingburg, Indiana.

Table 1. 2001 Strawberry variety, yield, and berry weight at the Southeast Farm, Crawfordsville, Iowa.

Variety	Yield lbs/acre	Avg. berry weight (g)*	Harvest dates
Kent	21,935	14.5	6/08–6/25
Cavendish	18,205	19.4	6/04–6/25
Honeyoye	13,590	10.6	6/08–6/22
Primetime	14,680	15.8	6/08–6/25
Jewel	15,935	18.6	6/08–6/25
Mohawk	9,635	10.7	6/01–6/15
Annapolis	15,030	17.6	6/01–6/22
Delmarvel	9,530	15.9	6/04–6/20
Winona	10,450	11.0	6/15–6/25

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