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Strawberry Variety Trial

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Strawberry Variety Trial

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
Strawberry Variety Trial

Patrick O’Malley, extension commercial horticulture field specialist
Kevin Van Dee, superintendent

Introduction
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.

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.

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

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