Strawberry Variety Trial

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Introduction

The purpose of this multi-year study is to compare the performance of some newer released USDA varieties with the current industry varieties 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 cultural practices were used, including mulching for winter protection.

Results and Discussion

The strawberry trial in 2002 was greatly impacted by a series of spring frosts in May. The overall yield of the trial was down nearly two-thirds from the previous three-year average (Table 1). *Kent* had the highest yield for the third time in four years and had the second least decline (51%) in yield. *Winona*, a late season berry, had the second highest yield, and the least decline in yield (36%). This could be explained by *Winona's* relatively late flowering, and a tendency to bloom under the canopy of leaves (unlike other varieties).

Acknowledgments

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

Table 1. Strawberry variety yield for 1999–2001, 2002.

Variety	Average yield lbs/acre 1999–2001	Average yield lbs/acre 2002	Yield difference (%) (2002 compared with 1999–2001)
Kent	21,349	10,528	- 51
Cavendish	16,730	4,611	- 72
Honeyoye	15,989	2,578	- 84
Jewel	15,114	6,517	- 57
Primetime	14,895	5,361	- 65
Annapolis	14,214	3,031	- 79
Mohawk	11,471	3,703	- 68
Winona	10,288	6,571	- 36
Delmarvel	8,725	1,428	- 84