Strawberry Variety Trial

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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.

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

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