

## Strawberry Cultivar Trial

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### Introduction

The purpose of this multiyear study is to compare the performance of newer strawberry cultivars with popular Iowa-grown older cultivars under soil and environmental conditions at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm.

### Materials and Methods

The strawberry trial consists of eight June-bearing cultivars, including the newer cultivars 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 the third year in a row Mesabi, one of the newer cultivars, had the highest yield. Jewel had the second-highest yield and largest berry size. Yields and berry weight were down considerably in both 2005 and 2004 when compared with 2003. Reductions in both years were attributed to early May freeze events that damaged most of the king berries. Although relative yield was still rather low, Winona, the latest-ripening cultivar, was the only cultivar to substantially exceed 2004 yield totals. Thus far over the first three years, it appears that Mesabi and Jewel have been the most consistent performers for size and yield.

### Acknowledgments

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

**Table 1. Strawberry cultivar yield and berry weight for 2005, 2004, and 2003.<sup>1</sup>**

Variety	2005 yield	2004–2003 yield	Avg berry weight (gm) <sup>2</sup>
	(lb/acre)	(lb/acre)	<u>2005/2004/2003</u>
Mesabi	17,500	25,500 - 34,100	9.3 - 11.9 - 17.4
Jewel	15,700	20,600 - 26,200	13.4 - 13.4 - 19.0
Glooscap	14,900	17,400 - 19,100	6.9 - 10.8 - 14.9
Kent	14,600	23,300 - 27,800	7.9 - 12.5 - 14.6
Honeyoye	13,100	17,200 - 27,700	7.6 - 9.1 - 17.5
Winona	10,100	7,700 - 9,900	10.7 - 10.9 - 17.1
Northeastern	8,300	8,200 - 8,700	10.3 - 9.8 - 12.7
Primetime	7,800	10,600 - 15,800	8.5 - 12.3 - 17.3

<sup>1</sup>Means of three replications.

<sup>2</sup>Average weight from first three harvests.