Strawberry Cultivar Trial

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Introduction

The purpose of this multi-year 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, 2002. Standard cultural practices were used, including mulching for winter protection.

Results and Discussion

In 2006, Jewel had the highest yield, but the overall average yield of the trial was less than in previous years. Part of this decline may be explained by age of planting. Yields were down considerably in 2006 and 2004 when compared with 2003. Reductions in all three years were attributed in part to spring frost and freeze events that damaged most of the king berries. Spring frost protection may be necessary in most years for full crops to be harvested at this location. In both the average of the three frost/freeze limiting years and in 2003, Jewel, Mesabi, Kent, and Honeyoye were the best performers.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Strawberry cultivar yield for 2006 and 2003.[1]

Variety	2006 yield (lb/acre)	2006 and 2004 yield (lb/acre avg.)	2003 yield lb/acre
Jewel	13,200	16,500	26,200
Kent	11,100	13,000	27,800
Honeyoye	9,400	13,200	27,700
Glooscap	9,200	13,800	19,100
Mesabi	8,500	17,200	34,100
Northeastern	6,700	7,700	8,700
Winona	6,300	8,000	9,900
Primetime	4,100	7,500	15,800
Average lb/acre	8,600	12,100	21,200

[1]Means of three replications.