Strawberry Variety Trials in Maine

Results and Recommendations
What Makes a Good Strawberry Variety?

- Yield
- Harvest season
- Fruit quality
  - Size
  - Color
  - Firmness
  - Flavor
- Durability
  - Winter hardiness
  - Disease resistance
  - Longevity
- Customer Appeal
Strawberry Variety Trial 2006-09

Highmoor Farm, Monmouth, Maine

• Narrow matted row, raised beds
• Trickle irrigation
• Planted 2006, flowers removed
• Plants 12” apart, 4.5’ between rows
• Rows trained to 18” wide
• Mulched for winter
• Harvest 2007-2009
• Note: flooding in springs of ’06, ‘08
## The Best of 2007-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Kg/Plot 2007</th>
<th>Kg/Plot 2008</th>
<th>g/fruit 2007</th>
<th>g/fruit 2008</th>
<th>% Cull 2007</th>
<th>% Cull 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mesabi</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sable</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavendish</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mira</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>27.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewel</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabot</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darselect</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeoye</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## The Rest of 2007-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Kg/Plot 2007</th>
<th>Kg/Plot 2008</th>
<th>g/fruit 2007</th>
<th>g/fruit 2008</th>
<th>% Cull 2007</th>
<th>% Cull 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yamaska</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>9.35</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itasca</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td><strong>2.1</strong></td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td><strong>47.1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovation</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td><strong>35.2</strong></td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allstar</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orleans</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangeline</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td><strong>9.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.6</strong></td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clancy</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoga</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Laurent</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’Amour</td>
<td><strong>4.7</strong></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strawberry Variety Trial

**Mesabi**
- Mid-season
- Highest yielding
- Fair fruit size
- Good appearance
  - Firm, glossy
- Difficult to pick
  - Hidden, hard pulling
Strawberry Variety Trial

👍 Sable
- Early season
- High yielding
  - Rank: 2nd
- Fair-good fruit size
- Good appearance
- Fair cull rate (size)
- Good flavor
Strawberry Variety Trial

😊 Wendy

- Early season
- High yielding
  - Rank: 6th
- Fair-good fruit size
- Very nice appearance
- Low cull rate
- Good flavor
  - Sweet, lacks acid
Strawberry Variety Trial

*Mira*

- Mid-late season
- High yielding  
  - Rank: 4\textsuperscript{th}
- Good fruit size
- Good appearance  
  - Light color
- Low cull rate
- Good flavor
Strawberry Variety Trial

**Itsaca**

- Mid-early season
- High yielding first year
  - Two year rank: 13th
- Fair-good fruit size
- Good color (dull?)
- Slightly soft
- High cull rate (size, rot)
- Bland, slightly acid flavor
- 2nd season disaster
Strawberry Variety Trial

👍 Cabot

- Late mid-season
- Good yields
  - Rank: 8th
- Very large fruit
- Rough appearance
  - Nice color, stem & calyx
- Fair cull rate
  - Rot, splits, misshapen
- Good flavor, soft
- Large plant
  - Supplemental N
Strawberry Variety Trial

Brunswick
- Early mid-season
- High yielding
  - Rank: 7th
- Good fruit size
- Good appearance
  - May be dark, soft
- Few culls
- Flavor issues?
- Renovate lightly
Strawberry Variety Trial

Darselect

- Mid-season
- Good yields
  - Rank: 10th
- Nice appearance
  - Uniform, fancy calyx
- Fairly high cull rate
  - Rot, size, misshapen
- Good flavor, firmness
- Large, floppy leaves
  - Very susceptible to scorch
- Winter tender?
Strawberry Variety Recommendations 2009

• Early
  – Sable, Wendy, Annapolis, Honeoye
• Early Mid-season
  – Brunswick, Cavendish, Itasca?
• Mid-Season
  – Jewel, Mesabi, Mira, Darselect
• Late
  – Cabot, Allstar, Clancy, Ovation?, Yamaska?
Day-Neutral Variety Observations

- **Evie-2 (UK)**
  - Early
  - High yields
  - Good size, uniform, light color
  - Very soft, high cull %
  - Overall quality: Fair

Photo: Nourse Farms
Day-Neutral Variety Observations

- **Seascape (CA)**
  - Mid-late
  - Large plants
    - Use wider spacing?
  - High yields
  - Good size, nice appearance
  - Firm, good flavor
  - Overall quality: very good
Day-Neutral Variety Observations 2006

• Albion (CA)
  – Late
    • Many plants didn’t produce till late
  – Good size, very nice appearance
  – Firm, good flavor
  – Overall quality: good
New Releases for 2010

• Early
  – Galletta
• Early Mid-season
  – Daroyal
• Late
  – Valley Sunset, Record
• Day Neutral
  – Portola, San Andreas
Strawberry Variety Trials

• Test them yourself!
• Always trial new varieties in small plantings (reduce risk)
• Plant new varieties next to a standard for your area
• Observe for at least two harvest seasons before “buying in”
• Get customer feedback