Strawberry cultivars for Eastern Canada

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Strawberry cultivars for Eastern Canada

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The strawberry, a most delectable fruit, grows well in Eastern Canada. Numerous adaptable cultivars that differ greatly in fruit color, shape, size, and flavor as well as in season of maturity are available to growers in Eastern Canada. Cultivars also vary in their suitability for the fresh fruit market, the processing industry, and home garden production. Superior cultivars exist for all these uses (see Table 1). The suitability of cultivars for freezing is indicated in Table 1. All cultivars can be used for making jam.

The geographical area in which strawberry cultivars are fully adapted is usually limited. Their degree of adaptability varies within a province because of the plant's sensitivity to soil type, moisture, temperature, and light. This sensitivity is reflected in plant growth, vigor, and productivity and in fruit size, flavor, firmness, and susceptibility to disease.

New cultivars that appear from time to time may perform very well one year but not the next. For this reason, test them on a small scale for more than one year to see if they are superior to standard cultivars. Selecting the correct cultivar is the most important decision that a grower makes.

The cultivar descriptions in Table 1 will help you select the cultivar best suited to your particular requirements. The cultivars listed are all June bearers (one crop per year). Everbearing cultivars do not perform well in Eastern Canada and are therefore not included in this publication.

Please note that the cultivars recommended in Table 2 for general planting have been tested thoroughly and found acceptable by commercial producers. Cultivars recommended for limited planting meet specific producer and market requirements and those suggested for trial planting are new cultivars that have performed well in test plots and in limited commercial plantings.

Table 1 Characteristics of cultivars

Name	Season	Fruit	Flesh	Suitability	Plant	Introduction
Bounty (Jerseybelle × Senga Sengana)	late	first fruits large, later fruits small, medium red	medium firm, medium red, tender, very good flavor, hulls easily	fresh market and frozen pack	runners freely, vigorous, very productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt, red stele, green petal; foliage resistant to leaf spot, but slightly susceptible to leaf scorch; somewhat resistant to botrytis fruit rot	1972 Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Kentville, N.S.
Gorella (Juspa × US3736)	midseason	first fruits large and rough, later maturing fruit more uniform, bright light red	medium firm, light red, good flavor	fresh market	very productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt and red stele; foliage susceptible to scorch and mildew	1960 Institute of Horticultural Plant Breeding, Wageningen, Netherlands
Grenadier (Valentine × Fairfax)	early to midseason	large, dark red	firm, dark red, good flavor	fresh market and frozen pack	plant moderately productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt and foliage diseases	1959 Ottawa Research Station, Ottawa, Ont.
Kent (K68-58 × Raritan)	midseason	large, uniform, medium red	firm, .medium red, good flavor	fresh market and frozen pack	plant vigorous, very productive; foliage slightly susceptible to mildew; flowers and fruit suceptible to botrytis fruit rot	1981 Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Kentville, N.S.

Table 1 Characteristics of cultivars (*continued*)

Name	Season	Fruit	Flesh	Suitability	Plant	Introduction
Micmac (Tioga × K61-87)	midseason to late	large, maintains good size throughout season, uniform globose conic, slightly necked, light to medium red, glossy, easily picked	firm, medium red, fairly good flavor	fresh market	vigorous, large light green leaves, productive; susceptible to red stele; slightly susceptible to mildew and blotch	1978 Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Kentville, N.S.
Raritan (Redglow × Jerseybelle)	midseason	large, light red, glossy, attractive	firm, light red, good flavor	fresh market, not suitable for freezing	vigorous, somewhat sparse runner-plant production, moderately productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt and red stele; foliage susceptible to leaf spot and leaf scorch	1968 Department of Horticulture, New Jersey State University, New Brunswick, N.J.
Redcoat (Sparkle × Valentine)	midseason	medium to large, maintains size well, medium red, attractive	medium firm, light red, fair flavor	fresh market	vigorous, very productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt and red stele; slightly susceptible to leaf diseases; flowers and fruit susceptible to botrytis fruit rot	1957 Ottawa Research Station, Ottawa, Ont.

Table 1 Characteristics of cultivars (*continued*)

Name	Season	Fruit	Flesh	Suitability	Plant	Introduction
Sparkle (Fairfax × Aberdeen; also called Paymaster)	midseason to late	medium to small, medium red, glossy	soft, medium red, very good flavor	limited value for pick-your-own plantings and local markets	very vigorous, productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt and green petal; resistant to several races of red stele; foliage susceptible to leaf scorch	1942 New Jersey Agriculture, Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N.J.
Vantage (Tioga × Veestar)	midseason to late	medium size, medium red, bright, attractive	firm, uniform medium red, good flavor	multiple-purpose berry: fresh market, frozen pack, and home gardens	productive; resistant to verticillium wilt; resistant to foliage diseases; somewhat resistant to botrytis rot	1980 Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ont.
Veegem (Valentine × Fulton)	early to midseason	first fruits large, later ones small, uniform shape, medium light red, glossy, attractive	firm, medium light red, good flavor	fresh market, well-suited to shipping	productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt; slightly susceptible to leaf diseases; somewhat resistant to botrytis rot	1980 Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ont.
Veeglow (Redcoat × Vibrant)	midseason	large, long conic with slight neck, light red, very bright, attractive	firm, uniform light red, good flavor	fresh market, well-suited to shipping; frozen pack	productive; slightly susceptible to verticillium wilt; somewhat resistant to leaf scorch; susceptible to mildew; somewhat resistant to botrytis rot	1980 Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ont.

Table 1 Characteristics of cultivars (*concluded*)

Name	Season	Fruit	Flesh	Suitability	Plant	Introduction
Veestar (Valentine × Sparkle)	early	medium size, medium red, bright	medium firm, light to medium red, good flavor	fresh market and frozen pack; well-suited to pick-your-own plantings, local fresh markets, and home gardens	very productive; moderately resistant to verticillium wilt; susceptible to leaf scorch; somewhat resistant to botrytis fruit rot	1967 Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ont.
Vibrant (Sparkle × Valentine)	midseason	medium size, medium dark red, bright	medium dark red, medium firm, good flavor	pick-your-own plantings, local fresh markets, frozen pack, and home gardens	productive; susceptible to verticillium wilt; resistant to leaf scorch; somewhat resistant to botrytis fruit rot	1967 Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ont.

Table 2 Cultivars recommended for Eastern Canada

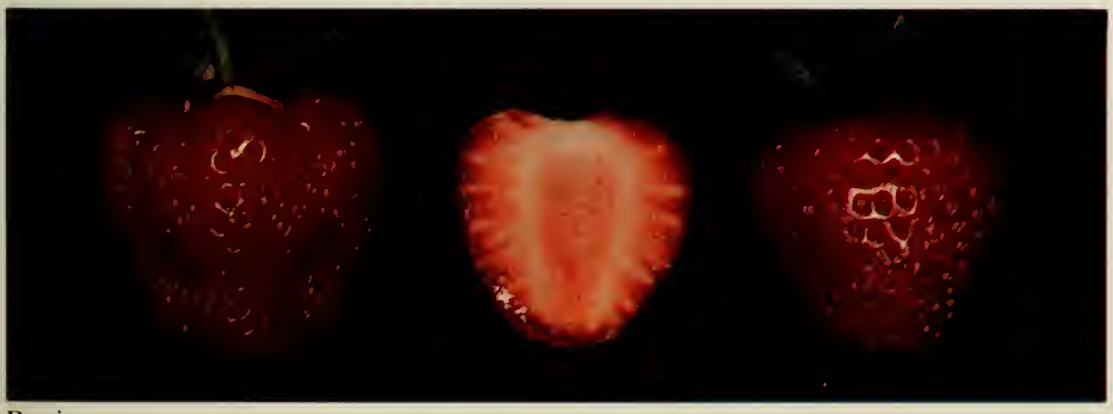
	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	New-foundland
Bounty	L	G	G	G	G	G
Gorella				L		
Grenadier		L				
Kent			T	T	T	
Micmac	T		G	G	G	T
Raritan				L		
Redcoat	G	G	G	G	G	G
Sparkle		L	L			G
Vantage	T					
Veegem	T					
Veeglow	T					
Veestar	G	G	G	G	G	
Vibrant	L	L	L	L	L	

G: general planting
L: limited planting
T: trial planting

Bounty

Kent

Micmac



Raritan

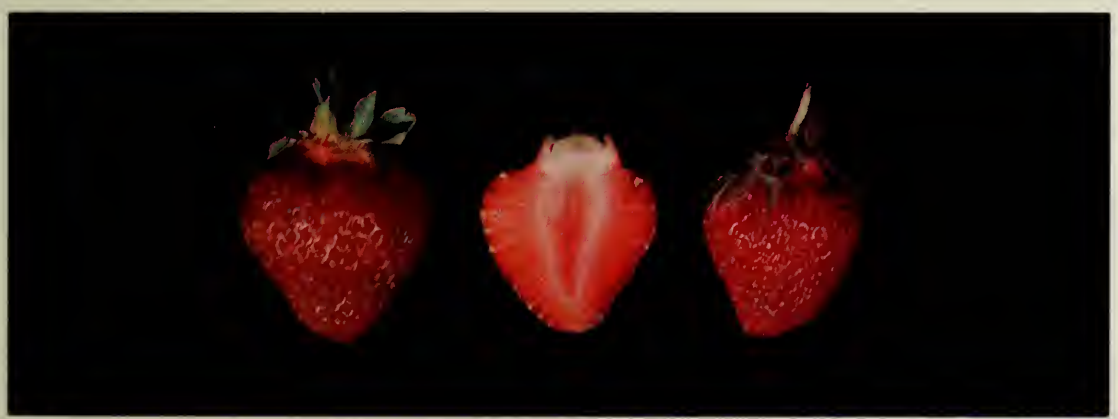
Redcoat

Vantage

Veegem

Veeglow

Veestar



Vibrant