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THE BRIGHTMORE STRAWBERRY*

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The Brightmore strawberry is being introduced as a variety worthy of trial wherever strawberries are grown in the Pacific Northwest for the frozen pack, for barreling, for the preserve industry, or for fresh-fruit markets. This variety is recommended for trial particularly in those areas where the Marshall variety cannot be profitably grown. Even where the Marshall is being successfully grown the superiority of Brightmore for preserving suggests its trial. In many strawberry growing areas, however, the virus diseases infecting the Marshall make it necessary to look for virus-resistant varieties. The Brightmore has so far shown no symptoms of these diseases and is, therefore, being recommended for trial since it is superior for shipping and for preserving.

Origin

The Brightmore (Ore. 1084) is a seedling of a cross between the Blakemore and Ore. 154, made by George M. Darrow of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Corvallis, Oregon, in the spring of 1932. Ore. 154 was a seedling of a cross between Ettersburg 121 and Marshall made by C. E. Schuster, then of Oregon State College, and selected by him in 1930. The Brightmore was selected in 1934 for further trial and since 1937 test plantings have been made in various places in Oregon and Washington.

The Brightmore has grown vigorously and has been productive at Corvallis, except on the very heaviest soils. It has been outstanding in the trials at the following stations: Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup, Washington; Irrigation Branch Experiment Station at Prosser, Washington; and Hood River Experiment Station at Hood River, Oregon. In addition to these it has shown plant vigor and virus disease resistance at Olympia, Snohomish, Monroe and Lynden in Washington and at Ontario and Milton, Oregon. It has not shown outstanding vigor at Woodland, Washington, or at Oregon City, Oregon. In these various trials it has grown vigorously on the rich, well-drained river bottom lands of western Oregon and Washington and in the irrigated sections east of the Cascade mountains. Further trials are necessary to determine its adaptability to the red hill and other upland soils west of the Cascade mountains.

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* Research on small fruit breeding problems is conducted jointly by the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry and the Ore. Agri. Experiment Station cooperating.

Reaction to Important Diseases

No manifestations of crinkle and yellows, two destructive virus diseases of strawberries prevalent in the Pacific Coast Region, have been observed in Brightmore. This may indicate either that the variety is resistant to these diseases or that plants in test plots have so far escaped infection.

The variety is, however, susceptible to the red stele root disease.[1/] Therefore, care should be taken to set only clean plants in well-drained soil and in soil where strawberries have not been grown recently.

Characteristics and Uses

The Brightmore has many of the characteristics of Blakemore, one of its parents. The foliage is medium light green in color, the plant is vigorous, producing many leaves with long petioles when growing vigorously and is an abundant runner producer. The blossoms open rather early and contain ample pollen. The blossom clusters are medium long and droop or fall when the fruit ripens.

The berries begin ripening at about the same time as Marshall. The first berries are medium in size and continue to be good sized for about two weeks or longer if the plants are vigorous and there is ample moisture. The late berries have been too small at Corvallis for sale in the fresh-fruit local markets. The berry separates from the hull or cap very easily, thus aiding picking without hulls for processing. The ease of picking in a measure offsets the additional cost due to the small size.

Though yields of Brightmore obtained at Corvallis, Oregon, have not been above average, it has been very productive at Puyallup and Prosser, Washington, and at Hood River, Oregon. A large number of blossoms are produced which have always set fruit under all conditions, and when growing conditions were favorable a high yield has been obtained.

The Brightmore is outstanding for its uniformity of shape which is conic to long conic or necked. No off-shaped or ill-shaped berries, due to poor pollination or frost injury, have been observed. In color, it is slightly darker than Blakemore but is a lighter red than Marshall. The seeds are yellow, only slightly sunken and spaced rather far apart. The surface has a brightness and gloss that is outstanding and often suggests having been waxed or varnished. The flesh is firm and medium red in color.

Though it is not equal in dessert quality to well grown Marshall, the flavor is good, medium acid.

1/ Caused by *Phytophthora fragariae* Hickman.

Preserving tests made by the Food Industries Department of Oregon State College and by the Western Washington Experiment Station, Puyallup, Washington, have shown that preserves made of Brightmore were superior to those of Marshall in color and other preserving qualities. Since the major portion of the frozen strawberries eventually are used in preserves, Brightmore may replace the Marshall in many areas in the Pacific Northwest, especially where virus diseases make it unprofitable to grow the Marshall.

Sources of Plants - The Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup, Washington, has a supply of plants to be sold for testing purposes. Other propagators do not have sufficient plants to place any on the market this year.

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