

## STRAWBERRIES AND THEIR CULTURE

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**D**URING the past 16 years more than 400 named varieties of strawberries have been tested at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, under as nearly uniform conditions as possible. Every year many new varieties are offered for sale, some at very high prices. It has been the aim to test these alongside older varieties and find out whether they are any better. Ninety-five per cent. of the varieties introduced every year are inferior to the best varieties already grown.

Many kinds are discarded at the farm every year, having been tested long enough to judge of their merits. In 1904 there were 196 varieties tested. As the average results are more conclusive than those for a single year, the following 12 varieties, which have averaged best for four years, are those which would be likely to prove most productive when the conditions are the same as at Ottawa, the soil being a rich sandy loam not lacking in moisture.

Most productive 12 varieties in order of merit:

1. Mele, Perf. This is a wonderfully productive berry, but being rather soft is not highly recommended. Fruit above medium size, roundish or pointed conical, pale but glossy red. Quality medium.

2. Sample, Imp. The Sample is undoubtedly one of the best commercial strawberries on the market. It is very productive, handsome and uniform in shape. Fruit large, bright to rather deep glossy red, and moderately firm. Season medium to late, quality medium.

3. Buster, Imp. Although not generally known, the Buster is another fine variety. It is very productive, and the fruit, which is large, maintains its size well to the end of the season. The color is pale, glossy red, much like Clyde in appearance. Moderately firm; quality above medium; season medium to late; foliage very good.

4. Bisel, Imp. This variety has been lost sight of to a large extent owing to so many new and much advertised varieties being given such prominence, but it is one of the most productive and handsomest berries tested at Ottawa. It is a superior variety. Fruit large, roundish, bright red, moderately firm. Quality above medium; season medium to late.

5. Afton, Imp. Can see no difference between this variety and Warfield.

6. Steven's Early, Imp. Appears identical with Warfield.

7. Glen Mary, Perf. The Glen Mary has for years been one of the most productive varieties at the Central Experimental Farm. It combines great productiveness with very large size of fruit, the fruit remaining large until the end of the season. Fruit very large, rather irregular in shape, bright red, moderately firm; quality medium; season medium. The irregularity of the fruit is somewhat against it.

8. Daisy, Imp. The Daisy is a variety which was sent to the experimental farm for test 16 years ago and has always proved exceedingly productive. Fruit above medium size, uniform in shape, round-conical, rather soft, bright glossy red. Quality medium; season medium. A very attractive berry but a little soft.

9. Greenville, Imp. This variety has proved very productive here, and on account of its good quality is very desirable for home use as well as market. Fruit large to very large, roundish or wedge shaped, moderately firm to rather soft. Quality good; season medium. More suitable for near than for distant market.

10. Daniel Boone, Imp. This variety appears identical with Warfield.

11. Howard's No. 41, Imp. A firm, productive, medium to late variety with medium sized deep red fruit.