

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
New Haven

The Shelton and Hebron Strawberries

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NEW varieties of strawberries are being originated in many parts of the country but many of these are not adapted to New England. In 1923 an investigation was started to determine the effects of inbreeding upon strawberries and to apply the method of inbreeding and cross-breeding, that has proved so effective with corn, to the vegetatively

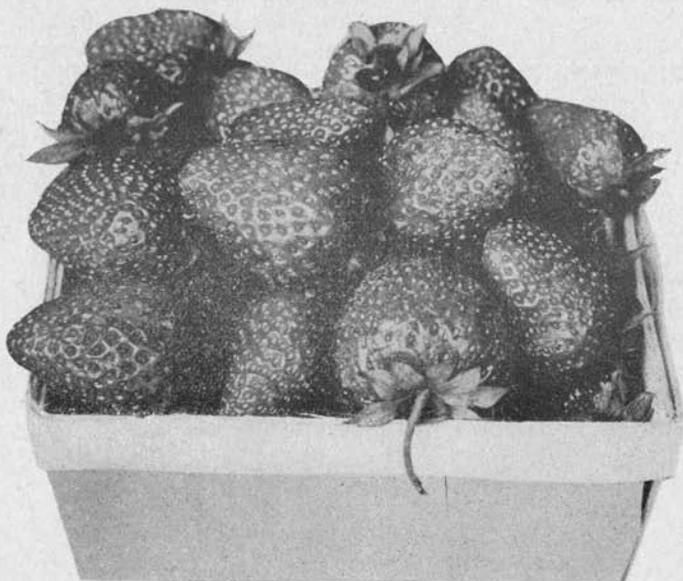


FIGURE 1. The Shelton Strawberry: a second-early, general market and home garden variety, having good keeping and shipping qualities. This photograph was taken after the berries had been picked 24 hours and kept in a warm room.

propagated fruits. The results of this work will be reported elsewhere. A practical outcome has been several new varieties of strawberries having considerable promise. Two of these have been tested sufficiently to disclose their good and bad qualities and are described herewith.

SHELTON

The Shelton strawberry (Connecticut 123) is being introduced as a second-early, market and home garden variety of good quality and unusual keeping ability. It has been tested in Connecticut for seven years and is recommended for southern New England.

Origin and Description

Shelton originated from a varietal cross of Chesapeake and Marshall, again crossed with a first generation hybrid of inbred strains of Progressive and Howard Premier that had been self-fertilized previously for two generations. It was first selected in 1933 because it had many of the fruit characters of Chesapeake combined with some of the plant characters of Howard Premier. In productiveness it ranks close to Howard Premier. It is an equally good plant maker and has an abundance of large, healthy leaves free from disease.

The fruit, produced on moderately long and strong stems, is held partly off the ground and is easy to pick. The berries are medium in size, smooth and regular in outline, mostly blunt conic and slightly wedge-shaped. The shape is uniform and maintained throughout the picking season. The fruit is moderately firm in texture and the large, slightly raised seeds protect it from bruising. The skin is a glossy bright red, coloring evenly.

In color Shelton is much like Chesapeake. The seeds are prominent and bright yellow and the fruit has an unusual ability to hold its attractiveness after picking. Berries that have stood for 24 hours at room temperature retain their bright, fresh appearance and color better than any varieties that are now generally grown. Shelton has possibilities as a general market and shipping berry.

The flowers are perfect and produce an abundance of pollen. The calyx is medium in size, light green in color with very little reddening and remains fresh for a long time.

Plants are vigorous and thrifty, form numerous runners and should be spaced widely in the field when set. The leaves are medium in size, moderately serrated and wrinkled. They are medium green in color, bright, somewhat resembling those of Howard Premier, and are generally free from spot and scorch. Plants are winter-hardy wherever tested in Connecticut.

Technical Description of Fruit

Form medium to long round or slightly wedge-shaped, blunt conic; uniform in size and shape; medium to large; *fruit stems* pubescent on entire length; *calyx* clasping, medium size, bright light green, very few dull caps, seldom red or purple; *seeds* yellow, medium size, slightly raised or even with the surface; *flesh* light red, tender juicy, usually without cavity; *outside color* medium to light, very bright, glossy; ripening uniformly; *shipping and keeping qualities* good; *flavor* mildly acid, aromatic; *dessert quality*, good; *season* about the same as Howard Premier in time and length but bulk of the crop produced slightly earlier.

HEBRON

The Hebron strawberry (Connecticut 111) is being introduced as a late variety that is productive and unusually attractive. It has been tested for seven years in Connecticut and is recommended as a berry for nearby markets in southern New England.

Origin and Description

Hebron originated from a cross of an inbred strain of Chesapeake and a first generation hybrid, similar to the one used in the production of Shelton. It has the parentage of Chesapeake, Howard Premier and the everbearing Progressive but it does not resemble any of these varieties and is unlike any variety of strawberry now generally grown. The fruit is unusually light and bright in color in striking contrast to its large, dark green caps. Hebron has been called by many the prettiest strawberry they have grown.

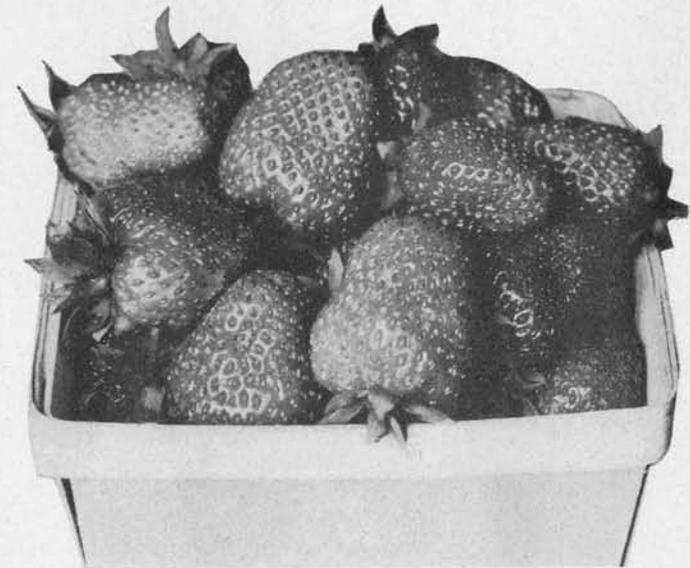


FIGURE 2. The Hebron Strawberry: a late, productive variety, unusually attractive.

The plants are about average in size and produce many runners. Leaves are medium to small and deeply serrated, slightly wrinkled and medium green in color. Although slightly susceptible to leaf spot and scorch, the plants are not appreciably injured in Connecticut. They are winter hardy, making a good fruiting bed, sometimes too thick, and should be spaced widely when set.

The leaf stalks are short and the flowers perfect, borne on erect stems above the leaves. The berries are about the same size and shape as Howard

Premier. Like that variety the first fruits are usually flat and furrowed in the middle. The fruit surface is glossy with bright yellow seeds, slightly raised but not prominent. The fruit is held mostly off the ground on stiff stems.

Unfortunately the flesh is soft, and the skin tender and easily bruised. Hebron is not suitable for long distance handling. It is better for a roadside market than for general market. In flavor the fruit is tart and not of the highest quality. It improves if the berries are allowed to ripen thoroughly on the plants.

It ripens from five to ten days later than Howard Premier. In two out of three years it has yielded more than Howard and when carried over into the second year it was the most productive of all varieties grown.

While Hebron has many undesirable qualities, it is the first productive, late maturing berry for this locality and is unsurpassed in attractiveness of fruit by any variety. It is worthy of trial and should be useful as material for further breeding investigations.

Technical Description of Fruit

Form medium round-conic and wedge-shaped; uniform in size, large at the start, becoming small in later pickings; *fruit stems* pubescent; *calyx* clasping to reflected, medium to large, bright fresh green, reddish at end of season; *color* light, bright glossy red; *seeds* bright yellow, slightly raised or even with surface; *flesh* light to pale red, usually without cavity; tender, juicy and ripening uniformly; *skin* tender; *shipping and keeping qualities* poor; *flavor* acid, aromatic; *dessert quality* fair; *season* late.

INTRODUCING THE VARIETIES

The names "Shelton" and "Hebron" have been selected from the list of Connecticut towns. These towns have no connection with their origin. The varieties are being introduced by cooperating nurseries. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has no plants for general distribution.