

On-Farm Strawberry Variety Trials in Ontario: 2004 results



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Objective

The on-farm variety trials are part of the coordinated berry trials program in Ontario. Our objective is to test new varieties in different berry-growing regions of Ontario and to develop recommendations for Ontario growers.

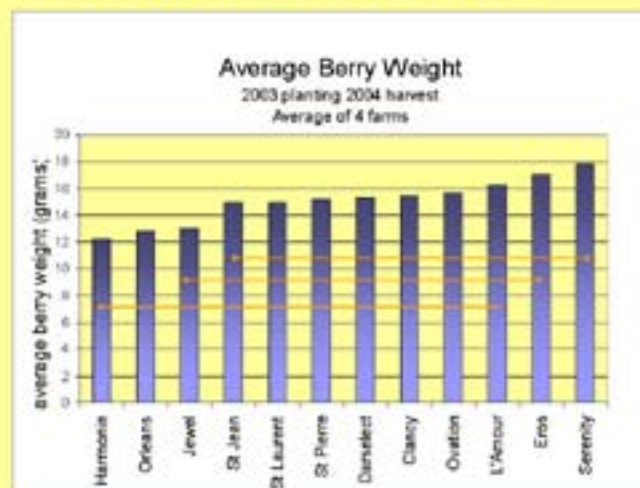
Variety	Program	Parentage
St. Pierre	AAFC Quebec	Chandler x Jewel
Orleans	AAFC Quebec	L'Acadie x Joliette
St. Laurent d'Orleans	AAFC Quebec	L'Acadie x (SJ8916-1 x P. Panda)
St Jean d'Orleans	AAFC Quebec	L'Acadie x Joliette
Harmonie	AAFC Quebec	Yamaska and Joliette
Serenity	U of G Simcoe	137A84 x Chandler
Ovation	USDA MD	Lateglow x Etna
Darselect	Italy	
Eros	UK	Alletar x Elsanta
Clancy	New York	MDUS4774 x MDUS5199
L'Amour	New York	(MDUS5252 x Etna) x Cavendish
Jewel	New York	(Senga sengana x NYE58) x Holiday

Methods

Test plots with 25-50 plants of each variety were planted at 12 different grower sites in 2003. Growers were asked to record information about each planting and to make observations on winter injury, leaf disease and fruit yield and quality. Berries were harvested weekly at several sites each year. The average berry weight, total yield and days to 25% harvest were calculated using data collected from a sub-set of 5 trial locations, at London, Woodstock, Waterford, Powassan, and Brockville.

Results

Results represent an average from 5 farms, in different regions. There is great variability between farms and in general there was little statistical difference between varieties. In the graphs, bars that are connected by the same line are not statistically different from each other.

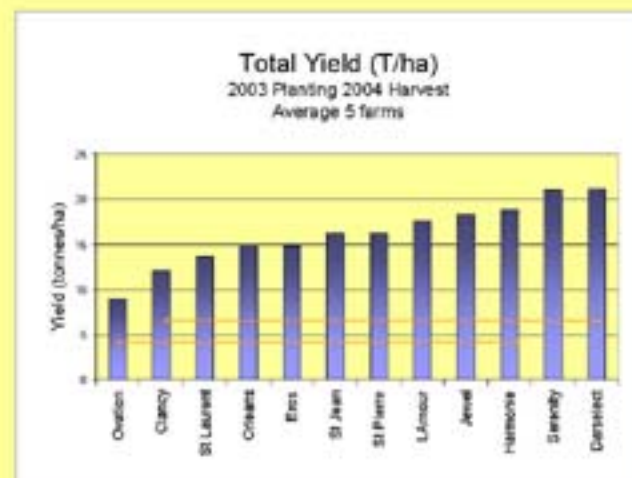


All berries were above 12 grams on average, and at least as large as Jewel. There was little significant difference among varieties.



Observations

Darselect, Eros, and Ovation were very susceptible to powdery mildew. Anthracnose fruit rot was common on Serenity and Harmonie. Angular leaf spot caused blackened sepals and reduced fruit quality on Clancy and L'Amour.

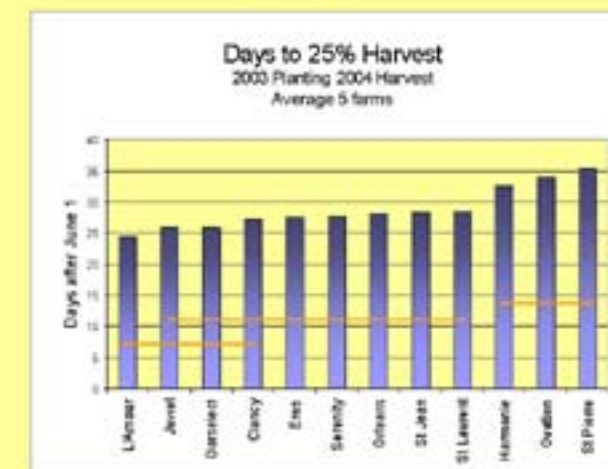


Yields were comparable to Jewel. Serenity and Darselect had the highest yields, Ovation yields were very low.



More information

Varieties suggested for planting in Ontario are listed on the OMAF website. <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/berryrec.htm> Many of the varieties in this trial are not recommended for general planting because they have not been tested for more than one growing season.



Only L'Amour was earlier than Jewel. Ovation, Harmonie and St. Pierre were significantly later than the other varieties. First harvest for these varieties was after July 1.

