

## **Historic, Archive Document**

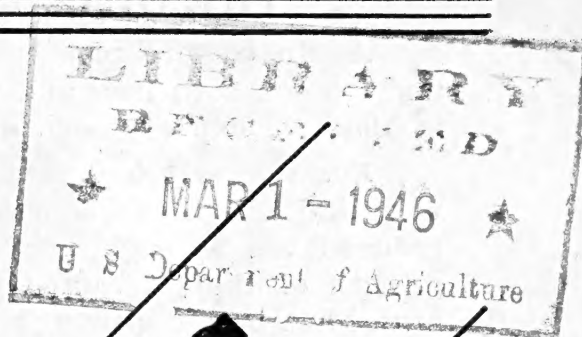
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# The 1946 BERRY BOOK



# BENNING'S

Established 1909

## W. E. BENNING

CLYDE, N. Y.

Phone 5083

No. 1216

State of New York

Department of Agriculture and Markets

C. Chester DuMond, Commissioner

Certificate of Inspection of Nursery Stock

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the Strawberry Plants of W. E. Benning of Clyde, County of Wayne, State of New York, have been duly examined in compliance with the Agriculture and Markets Law and have been found to be apparently free from all injurious insects, and plant diseases. This certificate is valid until October 1, 1946, unless revoked before that date.

Dated Albany, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1945.

C. CHESTER DUMOND, Commissioner.

A. B. BUCHHOLZ, Director, Bureau Plant Industry.

## THE OUTLOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES

Again we are pleased to extend our greetings to our customers and friends both new and old. To those of you who ordered from us in 1945 we express our appreciation.

For the past few years the supply of strawberry plants has been very limited. Labor shortages and lack of plants available for setting reduced the acreage and unfavorable weather severely reduced the growth of the few acres planted. This year the supply situation is somewhat better although still limited in the case of some varieties.

Most of our own beds made a good growth last year and the plants are vigorous, stocky and well rooted. Our plants are inspected twice during the growing season by New York State inspectors and are sold under a New York State inspection certificate guaranteeing them to be free from injurious insects and diseases. You will be pleased with the fine quality of our plants.

Looking to the future it seems certain that strawberries will continue to bring good prices for some time to come. The berry acreage in the country is still down. Buying power is still high and economists predict it will remain so. Strawberries are delicious, healthful and liked by everyone. All this adds up to one thing—high prices for strawberries and profits for the berry grower who produces good berries.

Plant as many strawberries as your labor situation will justify and you will find it to be a profitable venture.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR CUSTOMERS

We urge that you place your order early—just as soon as you decide what varieties and how many you want. We will reserve them for you until shipping time. Last year we had to return many orders and disappoint many of you because of lack of plants to meet the demand. Don't let that happen to you this year. Get your order in early.

We take every precaution to keep our plants true to name and they are sold as such. However, should they prove otherwise, we will not be responsible for more than the purchase price of the plants.

Our packing is carefully done to insure arrival of the plants in good condition. However, should you have any complaints to make regarding shortages, poor condition of the plants, etc. they must be made immediately upon arrival of the plants. We will make good anything for which we are at fault. We cannot be responsible for any conditions affecting the plants after their arrival as they are beyond our control.

We start shipping plants in the spring as soon as the weather permits digging. Usually this is about mid-April although in some years we are able to start earlier. We do not like to ship plants after about May 10 due to the danger of failure because of the lateness of the season. Orders received after that date will be filled at the purchaser's risk only. This means that our shipping season is short. Rainy wet weather can easily upset our shipping schedule as we ship only fresh dug plants. We will do our best to get your plants to you at the time you request but please bear in mind the foregoing facts if you do not receive your plants on just the day you want them.

We do not sell plants in the late summer and fall and do not recommend planting at that time.

With the lifting of gas rationing, many of our customers may wish to resume their former practice of driving to our place for their plants. Our place is located on the County highway between Clyde

(on N. Y. Route 31) and Seneca Falls (on N. Y. Route 5 and U. S. Route 20) being 4 miles south of Clyde and 10 miles north of Seneca Falls. If you wish to come after your plants we should be notified a couple of days in advance in order that we may have your plants ready.

We are not open for business on Sunday.

Cash must accompany all orders unless other arrangements are made.

## **CULTURAL PRACTICES**

### **Care of the Plants on Arrival**

The package should be opened at once and the roots of each bunch put in water for a few minutes. If it is necessary to hold the plants for a few days, wet the roots as stated and repack them loosely in the package or put in a pile with the roots inside with damp moss between the layers as in the original package, keeping the plants in a cool place. If it is necessary to hold them more than a few days, heel the plants in the soil. However, immediate planting insures the best results.

### **Soil**

While strawberries are widely grown on many types of soil, individual varieties show a marked difference in their response to varying soil types. Some varieties, such as Premier, are universally adapted and will do well on almost any soil. Others are more capricious and will vary from poor to excellent depending on the soil and the locality. Plenty of moisture is essential, especially just before and during picking. Soils rich in humus or organic matter are better adapted to hold sufficient moisture than are poor soils low in humus.

Plant on clean soil, free from weeds and grass. This will aid greatly in weed control.

### **Planting**

Early Spring planting as soon as the ground can be well fitted is best. If delayed until late spring, the chances of heavy loss due to hot dry weather are much greater.

Set in rows  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet apart and 15 to 30 inches in the row. At these distances it will require 7,000 to 8,000 plants per acre.

### **Cultivation**

Cultivate frequently enough to keep the soil in good tilth and to control weeds. Weed control is absolutely essential to successful berry growing.

Some of the more free-growing varieties tend to set too many plants for the best results. Recent experiments have shown that allowing only a limited number of strong, sturdy plants to set and removing all excess runners, will result in larger yields with a higher percentage of large, better quality berries.

Blossoms should be removed from the newly set plants as they appear.

### **Mulching**

Late in the fall berries should be mulched to prevent heaving during the winter. Marsh hay, straw, leaves, strawy manure or any like material may be used. In the spring, the bulk of this mulch should be raked off the plants and put between the rows. This will aid in conserving moisture, a most important item in strawberry production, and in weed control. It also keeps the berries cleaner.

## **PREMIER — The Old Favorite**

No berry is so popular and so widely planted in the northern states as Premier. Year after year it retains its popularity as other varieties come and go. Premier is a sure-cropper being very frost resistant. It is the best extra-early berry producing large crops and having a long picking season.

The berries are medium to large in size and bright red in color. Many of the early berries are wedge shaped but the later ones are quite uniformly conic. Though not as firm as Fairfax, they are firm enough to hold up well for shipping. Quality is good.

Premier is a vigorous grower making a good stand of healthy plants. It is widely adapted to a great variety of soil and climatic conditions. It will produce a crop almost anywhere you wish to plant it. Whether you are commercial grower or a home gardener you cannot go wrong on Premier for your early berries.

For assured profits plant Premier.

## **FAIRFAX — The Quality Berry**

Fairfax is truly a great berry surpassing all others we have grown in quality and firmness. Every year our sales of Fairfax plants have increased. We have increased our plantings yearly and still have not always been able to supply the demand in many seasons. This is the best gauge of the increasing popularity of this grand berry.

With us, Fairfax ripens a few days after Premier. The berries are large to very large and very firm and meaty holding up well for a long time after picking. The berries are bright red when they first ripen but turn dark as they stand either on the plant or in the basket until they become a dark purple. At first this was considered a fault, but, as the public has come to know Fairfax, this dark color has become an asset. It is the trade mark of quality by which consumers can readily identify genuine Fairfax berries and consumers are willing to pay a premium for the grand flavor and quality of Fairfax. Yields are high, at times exceeding Premier with us. The berries are smooth, glossy, beautiful and quite uniformly conic shaped. The plants grow very large with beautiful dark green healthy foliage. Fairfax is not as prolific a plant maker as some varieties but makes a good row. It is more susceptible to frost injury than Premier or Catskill. The fruiting season is exceptionally long.

Plant Fairfax and enjoy the superb quality of nature's finest strawberry. They are so sweet you can eat them without sugar. Once you have tasted them you will understand why we find it hard to restrain our enthusiasm for Fairfax.

## **CATSKILL — The Best Mid-Season Berry**

Probably no berry ever forged ahead so rapidly as Catskill after its introduction by the New York State Experiment Station a few years ago. In a very short time it became widely planted and known as the best mid-season berry in the northern states. Like Premier it is widely tolerant of varying soil and climatic conditions. Also, like Premier, it is frost resistant bearing enormous crops of berries every year.

The berries are large to very large, bright red and produced in abundance. They have a characteristically long neck and are often rather rough and irregular in shape. However, this does not seem to detract from their appearance when placed in the basket for sale. The texture is firm and the quality is good. It has been our experience that in very wet seasons when berries tend to rot badly we

seldom find rotten berries among our Catskills. The foliage is dark green and healthy. The plants are vigorous and make a good row.

We find the demand for Catskill increasing yearly. No commercial planting should be without it. Plant Catskill to follow Premier. You will have two sure-croppers and two money makers.

### **DRESDEN — A Heavy Yielder**

Dresden is a very early tremendously productive variety. It ripens as early as Premier. The berries are very large and smooth, uniformly conic shape and light to medium red in color. We consider the quality to be below average and the berries too soft for anything but the local market. In wet seasons we find that Dresden rots rather badly. The plants are healthy and prolific.

Where yield is the principal consideration, Dresden is your berry. Give it a trial under your conditions. The supply of plants is limited.

### **DORSETT**

N.B. Sorry but we have no Dorsett to offer the trade this year.

### **SPARKLE — A Promising New Variety**

Sparkle is a promising berry developed in New Jersey. We find it to be a vigorous growing productive mid-season variety resembling Fairfax, one of its parents, in appearance, firmness and color. The flavor and quality are much like but not quite equal to Fairfax. The berries are glossy, bright and medium to large in size. One of its outstanding features is its productiveness. Whether you are a commercial grower or a home gardener you should give Sparkle a trial. It may well be that in Sparkle you will find another winner. We have a fair supply of plants.

### **CULVER**

Our limited supply of plants of this beautiful attractive mid-season berry is already sold as we go to press.

### **ABERDEEN — A Popular Late Berry**

Aberdeen is one of the most widely grown late varieties in New York State. The plants are vigorous and free growing, making a heavy row. It is more resistant to red stele disease and does better on wet heavy soils than most varieties. Aberdeen sets a heavy crop of berries. They are medium to large in size, light red but only moderately firm and below average in quality. Many New York growers swear by Aberdeen as a late variety.

### **RED STAR — The Latest of All**

Red Star was developed by the U. S. D. A. recently and has been advertised as the best late variety. The plants are very large but make only a moderate number of new plants. Red Star sets such a very heavy crop of berries that it needs a plentiful supply of moisture to mature them to good size. The berries are very large but with us they tend to grow small and somewhat knotty if conditions become hot and dry. Red Star is bright red, firm and somewhat rough and irregular in shape. Quality is good. We recommend that you give Red Star a trial. Supply of plants is very limited.

### **GEM EVERBEARING**

We regret that we cannot offer you Gem plants this season as our limited supply is already sold before going to press.

# MASTODON EVERBEARING

## The Grand Old Everbearer

Strawberries until snow flies! That's what you get with Mastodon. Every strawberry grower should have a few delicious short-cakes during the summer and fall. Commercial men will find a ready market at high prices for all the good berries they can produce in the fall.

Two crops a year! That's what you get with Mastodon—A crop in early summer and another in late summer and autumn. Large, delicious bright red good quality berries you can enjoy for many weeks.

Berries three months after planting! That's what you get with Mastodon. Plants set this spring will bear in August and on until winter. The blossoms should be cut from plants set this spring until about mid-July in order to give the plants a good chance to get a vigorous start. Then leave the blossoms on and begin enjoying luscious berries in mid-August.

Mastodon does not run freely and should be planted closer together than standard varieties. The plants are large, vigorous and productive.

Mastodon has stood the test of time and still remains one of the most popular everbearers. Do not fail to include Mastodon in your planting.

### PRICES

No. of Plants	Prepaid	Transportation charges paid by purchaser						
	100	100	200	300	400	500	1000	5000
<b>EARLY</b>								
Dresden	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00		
Fairfax	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00	16.00	75.00
Premier	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00	16.00	75.00
Dorsett	Not available							
<b>MID-SEASON</b>								
Catskill	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00	16.00	75.00
Culver	Sold out							
Sparkle	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00	16.00	
<b>LATE</b>								
Aberdeen	3.25	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.50	10.00	16.00	75.00
Red Star	3.25	3.00						
<b>EVERBEARERS</b>								
Gem	Sold out							
Mastodon	5.25	5.00	9.00	12.50	15.50	18.50	30.00	

Plants shipped prepaid through the fourth postal zone only.

Do not add together two or more varieties to obtain a cheaper rate—Each variety must be figured separately.

Stamps (1, 2, and 3 cent) accepted for amounts less than \$1.00.

Prices subject to change without notice.

All plants offered subject to prior sale.

**CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS UNLESS  
OTHER ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE**

References: Postmaster, or Briggs Bank, Clyde, N. Y.





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# THE MONEY MAKERS



**PREMIER**—The best early berry. The leading commercial variety in the North. A time tested sure-cropper.

**FAIRFAX**—Can't be beat for flavor and quality. The finest berry grown.

**CATSKILL** — The best-midseason berry. Enormous yields. The biggest berries. Frost resistant.

**MASTODON**—Berries until snow flies. The time tested everbearer.

## NEW BERRIES TO TRY

**SPARKLE**—A highly productive fine quality berry with a future.

**RED STAR**—The very latest berry. Plant it to extend your season.

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