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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Crandall

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- (54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘COLIMA’**
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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
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- (52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./208**
- (58) **Field of Search** **Plt./208, 209**

(56) **References Cited**
PUBLICATIONS

Grower Contract.
Nursery Contract 1.
Nursery Contract 2.

Nursery Contract 3.
Nursery Contract 4.
Field Agreement 1.
Field Agreement 2.
Field Agreement 3.
Field Agreement 4.
Greenhouse Agreement.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a new and distinct straw-
berry variety designated as ‘Colima.’ Among the character-
istics that distinguish the new variety from other closely
related varieties are the timing of fruiting, plant vigor, fruit
color, leaf morphology, leaf size, leaf color, and disease and
pest resistance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

There are no related applications.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new strawberry variety claimed herein was first
fructed in 1992 in a seedling field east of Highway 101 and
North of Boranda Road in Salinas, Calif., where it was
selected, designated 91711-503, and propagated asexually
by runners. The new variety resulted from a cross performed
between Parker (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,263) and Douglas
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,487). Asexually propagules from this
original source have been tested at coastal and inland
locations in Watsonville, Calif., and at one location in
Oxnard, Calif. With the decision that this plant was to be
released, it was given the variety name ‘Colima’ for the
purposes of introduction into commerce and for interna-
tional registration and recognition.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct straw-
berry variety designated as ‘Colima.’ The cultivar is botani-
cally identified as *Fragaria×ananassa* Duch. Among the
characteristics that distinguish the new variety from other
closely related varieties are the timing of fruiting, plant
vigor, fruit color, leaf morphology, leaf size, leaf color, and
disease and pest resistance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 depicts representative mid-season fruit.
FIG. 2 depicts a typical mature leaf during late spring.
FIG. 3 depicts the general flowering and fruiting charac-
teristics of the plant.

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DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

‘Colima’ is an early fruiting, weak day-neutral cultivar
with shiny, deep red fruit that has performed well at coastal
and inland areas in Watsonville, Calif., which is where the
plants were observed for the following descriptions. ‘Colima’
has a large and moderately vigorous plant. Where it has been
tested, it is competitive with the important cultivars grown
in the area. ‘Colima’ fruits earlier than ‘Selva’ (U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 5,266). The fruit of ‘Colima’ is slightly darker than
‘Selva’. The following description is based on plants aged 7 to
9 months from planting. Descriptions of fruit characteristics
are based on primary fruit.

Plants and Foliage

‘Colima’ has a larger plant type than ‘Selva’, with slightly
thicker crowns, petioles and runners. The average plant
height is 25 cm. The average plant spread is 45 cm. Plant
vigor is moderate to good. Canopy density is moderate.
Plants habit is semi prostrate. Bracts occur in pairs at 100%
of the nodes. Leaf characteristics comparing ‘Colima’ and
‘Selva’ are reported in Table 1. Leaves of ‘Colima’ tend to
be shorter and wider than those of ‘Selva’, with more
variability in leaf size overall. Leaves of ‘Colima’ are more
concave, while leaves of ‘Selva’ are more convex. ‘Colima’
produces more leaves per plant, resulting in a denser canopy
of leaf material although leaves themselves are slightly
thinner than ‘Selva’. ‘Colima’ is a lighter colored plant than
‘Selva’ and can appear slightly yellow at times during the
season. Leaf color (using Munsell color charts) is reported
in Table 2. Characteristics of petioles, peduncles, and
pedicels are set forth in Table 3.

The average number of stolons is between 0.5 and 1
stolon per plant. The stolons are 15 to 25 cm in length and
3 to 6 mm in diameter. The pubescence is sparse to mod-

erate. The stolons contain a small to moderate amount of anthocyanin and are light pink in color.

Isozymes in Leaf Extracts

‘Colima’ has been classified for three isozyme systems, using starch gel eletrophoresis. Electrophoresis was carried out according to standard techniques. The following enzymes were analyzed: phosphoglocoisomerase (PGI), leucine aminopeptidase (LAP), and phosphoglucomutase (PGM). ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’ share the same PGI, LAP and PGM phenotypes as shown in Table 4.

Disease and Pest Reaction

Disease and pest reactions of ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’ were observed in field situations in Watsonville and in the Northern California nurseries. Neither cultivar was artificially inoculated. ‘Colima’ showed higher tolerance to two spotted spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*) than ‘Selva’. However, slightly higher levels of Powdery Mildew (*Sphaerotheca macularis*) were seen in ‘Colima’ than were seen in ‘Selva’.

Flowering, Fruiting and Production Characteristics

‘Colima’ is a day-neutral cultivar. However, ‘Colima’ is not as strong a day-neutral as ‘Selva’. As is typical of the species, the flowers are perfect; petals are pure white and are rounded and entire; and anthers and receptacle are bright yellow. The distinguishing flower characteristics of ‘Colima’ as compared to ‘Selva’ are shown in Table 5. One of the most distinctive differences is that ‘Colima’ produces floral structures that are less exposed than those of ‘Selva’. The petals are 9–13 mm in diameter. Sepals are 16–22 mm long and 6–12 mm wide.

The flowers of ‘Colima’ are self-fertile and pollination is very good. When plants are produced in nurseries in Northern California and planted in November, they typically begin to flower in late February or early March and fruit begin to mature four to six weeks later. ‘Colima’ produces a large number of runners at the nursery, with high quality root systems. The fruit of ‘Colima’ has excellent color, bright shiny red to dark red with yellow to brown seeds. The interior color of ‘Colima’ fruit is red with some white veining. The fruit of ‘Colima’ tends to be blocky and somewhat ridged, with smaller fruit having solid centers and larger fruit having a hollowing in the center. Fruit size of ‘Colima’ is initially larger than that of ‘Selva’, but over the season the fruit size of ‘Colima’ is variable with smaller fruit later in the season. The fruit of ‘Colima’ is almost as firm as that of ‘Selva’ with a flavor that is slightly more acidic. The calyx adhesion to fruit is good. The length of the fruiting trusses is 13–25 cm, their attitude is 45°–60° raised above horizontal. Average Fruit length is 49 mm and average width is 44 mm across the shoulders. Sugar content is variable and is influenced by time of year, carbohydrate distribution, leaf area, sunlight, moisture, ripeness, pests and diseases, and physiological status of the plant. Berries per plant is 80–100 berries over the season. Average weight of the berries is 23 gm. Achenes are present.

‘Colima’ begins to fruit earlier in the season than ‘Selva’ and has higher overall yields. In ‘Colima’ there is very heavy fruit production from April through July, after which fruit production decreases but continues into October and early November. Production yield is 100 mt/ha total fruit. ‘Colima’ is recommended as a fresh market cultivar although it can be used for processing.

TABLE 1

Foliar Characteristics for ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’		
Foliar Character	Cultivar	
	‘Colima’	‘Selva’
Mid-tier leaflet Length (mm)		
mean	75.6	72.6
range	45–95	65–88
Mid-tier leaflet Width (mm)		
mean	67.3	68.2
range	44–80	51–84
Mid-tier leaf Length (mm)		
mean	93.5	119.2
range	60–110	94–139
Mid-tier leaf Width (mm)		
mean	142.2	130.1
range	90–150	111–170
# of leaflets/leaf	3	3
Leaf Convexity	flat to concave	mostly flat to convex
Leaf Serrations		
number	moderate	few-moderate
shape	semi round	round to semi-pointed
Leaf Pubescence	sparse to moderate	moderate
Petiole Pubescence	sparse to moderate	heavy

TABLE 2

Foliar and fruit color characteristics for ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’		
Character	Cultivar	
	‘Colima’	‘Selva’
Leaf Color Adaxial	5GY 4/6	7.5GY 4/4
Leaf Color Abaxial	5GY 5/8	2.5G 3/3
External Fruit Color	5R 4/12	5R 4/12
Internal Fruit Color	5R 5/8	5R 5/13

All color From the Munsell Color System

TABLE 3

Characteristics of Petioles, Peduncles, and Pedicels				
	Munsell Color	Length (cm)	Widths (mm)	Average Number
Petioles	5GY 7/6	7.5–20	1.5–5	24.6
Peduncles	5GY 7/6	10–18	3–6	8.2
Pedicels	5GY 7/6	1–6	1.5–3	80

TABLE 4

Isozyme phenotypes for ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’		
Locus	Cultivar	
	‘Colima’	‘Selva’
PGI	A2	A2
LAP	B3	B3
PGM	C2	C2

TABLE 5

Flower and Fruit Characters for ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’		
Character	Cultivar	
	‘Colima’	‘Selva’
<u>Number of Petals</u>		
mean	6.2	5.8
range	5–8	5–8
Flower position (relative to foliage)	most even or interior few exposed	even or interior
<u>Calyx Diameter (mm)</u>		
mean	39.36	29
range	33–53	22–35
<u>Corolla Diameter (mm)</u>		
mean	36.9	37.5
range	27–46	31–43

TABLE 5-continued

Flower and Fruit Characters for ‘Colima’ and ‘Selva’		
Character	Cultivar	
	‘Colima’	‘Selva’
<u>Fruit shape (length to width)</u>		
ratio	1.11	1.16
range	0.9–1.5	1.02–1.25
subjective	blocky to conic	conic to flat conic
Calyx Position	even some relaxed	even with shoulder
Seed Position	even	even to slightly extruded

What is claimed is:

1. The new and distinct cultivar of strawberry plant substantially as herein described and illustrated.

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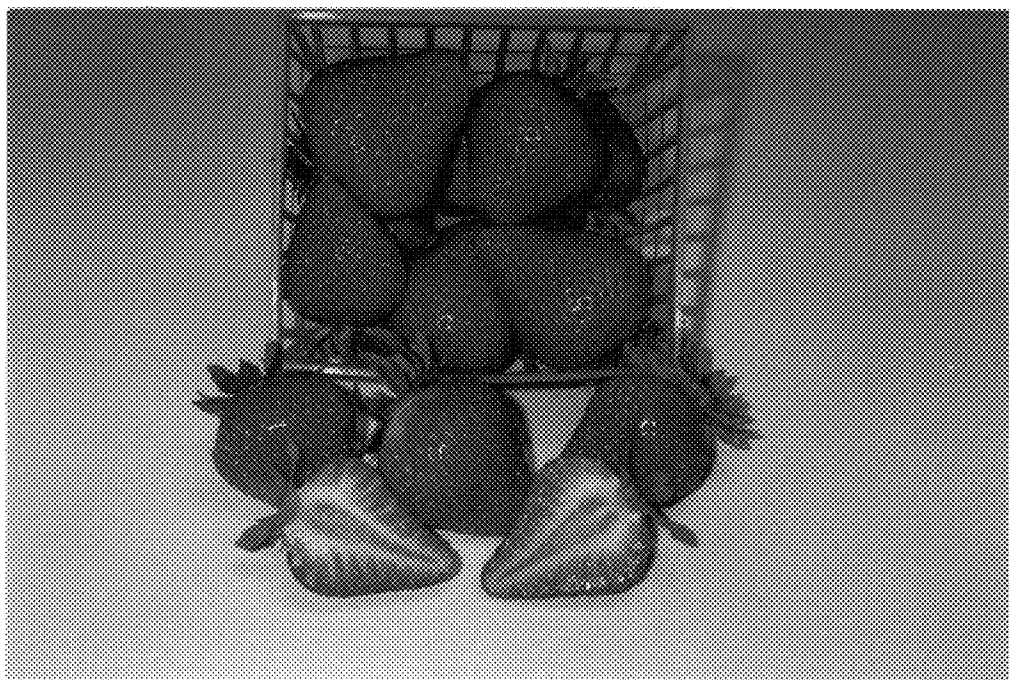


FIG. 1.

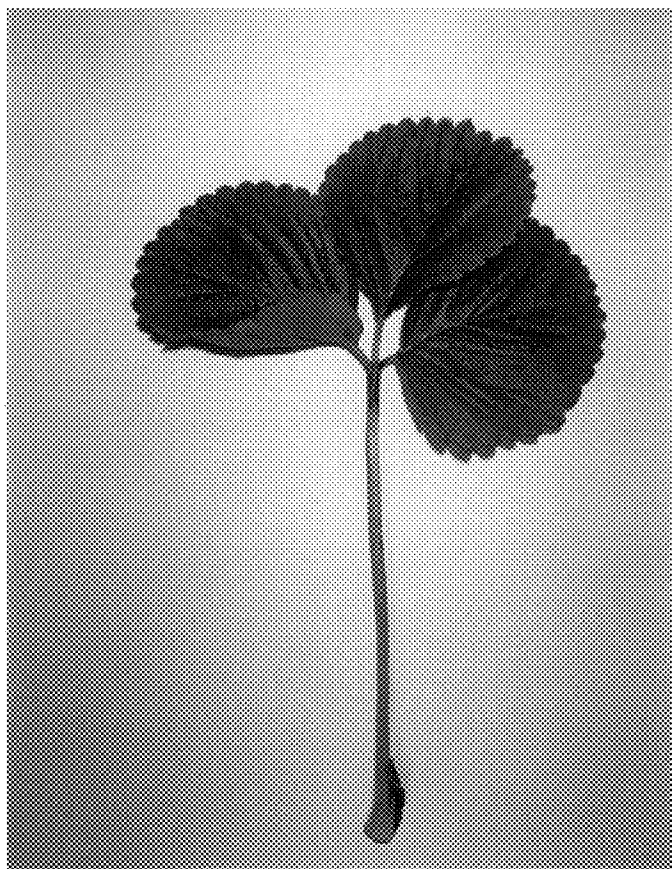


FIG. 2.

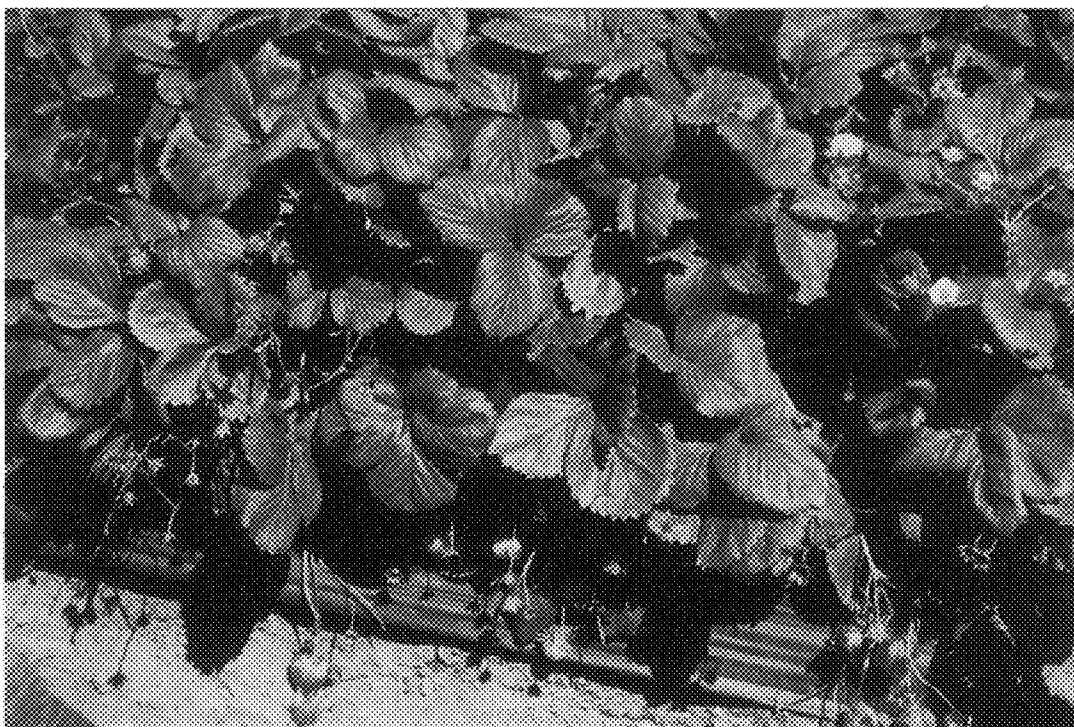


FIG. 3.