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B. D. DRAIN

Plant Pat. 629

STRAWBERRY PLANT

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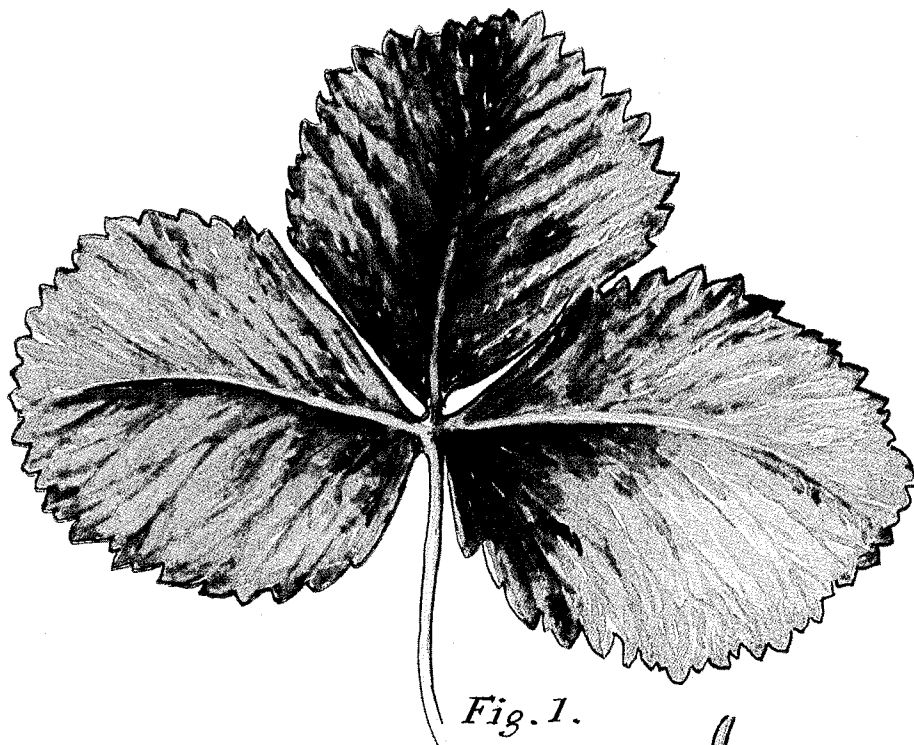


Fig. 1.

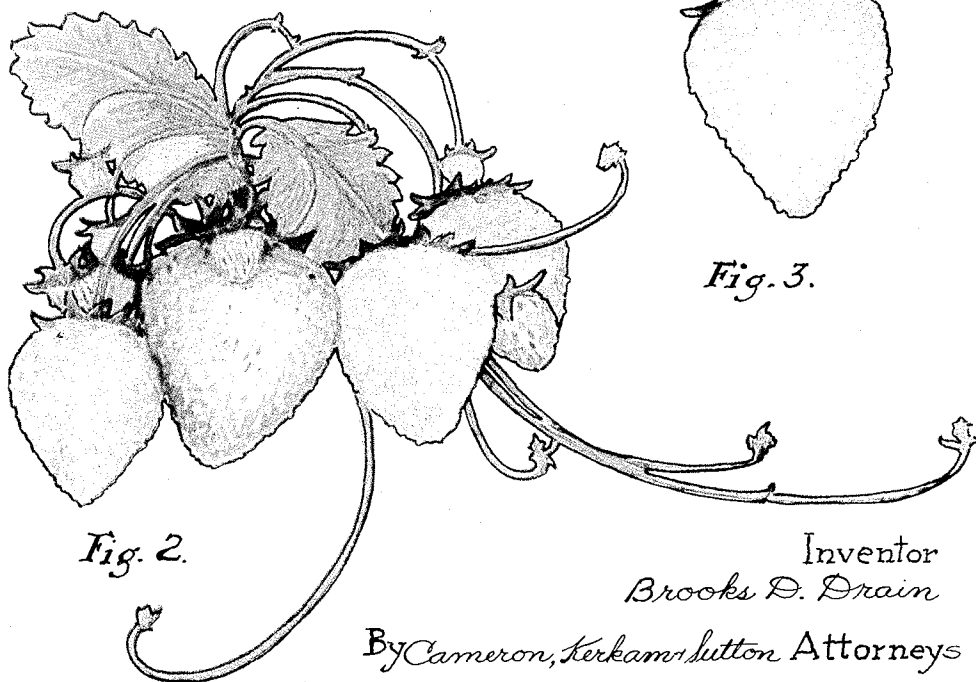


Fig. 2.

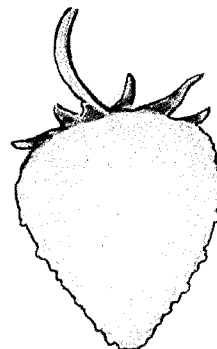


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

629

STRAWBERRY PLANT

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The University of Tennessee Research Corpora-
tion, Knoxville, Tenn., a corporation of Ten-
nessee

Application December 15, 1942, Serial No. 469,092

1 Claim. (Cl. 47—62)

This invention pertains to the asexual repro-
duction of strawberry plants, and specifically to
the asexual reproduction of a new and distinct
variety of strawberry produced by the artificial
pollination of the Missionary plant with pollen
from the Howard (Premier) strawberry.

The object of the invention is to produce a
novel variety of strawberry plant which possesses
better commercial qualities than varieties now in
existence ripening in mid-season to late and
which is particularly adapted to the soil and
climate of the State of Tennessee.

The new variety produces large crops of large
attractive berries; larger yields and better quality
fruit than Aroma which ripens at the same
season. Comparable plots in various parts of
Tennessee have averaged larger yields than
Blakemore, a variety extensively grown in that
State for the early market. It is free from the
"yellow leaf" trouble which is so destructive
among Blakemore plants.

In the accompanying drawing,

Fig. 1 is a view of a leaf of the plant showing its
color and other characteristics;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of a berry of the
new plant showing its internal color and char-
acteristics; and

Fig. 3 is a view of a fruiting stem of the plant
showing ripe and green berries.

In producing the plant of the present inven-
tion, the pollen of the Howard (Premier) straw-
berry was placed in the blossom of Missionary
plants, the pollen producing parts of the blossoms
of the Missionary having first been removed.
The pollinated blossoms were then protected so
that they could not receive pollen from any other
plant, and were allowed to develop into fruit.
The seeds from this fruit were then planted and
permitted to sprout, and after the plants had
grown to sufficient size, they were transplanted
and allowed to fruit in the field. At about the
time the plants were fruiting in the field each
plant and its vegetatively developed runner plants
were examined for freedom from insects and dis-
eases and for desirable growth habits. The fruit
was also tested and examined for desirable fruit
characteristics. The best among a large num-
ber of seedlings was then selected and saved and
propagated asexually, using runner plants to
produce the plant of the present invention. All
of the plants which are now growing, including
the one from which the accompanying drawing
was made, have come from this original seedling.

The new variety differs from its parent varie-
ties in numerous respects. The fruit ripens later

than that of either parent and the yield is larger
under Tennessee conditions. The plants are
darker green in color and stockier than Mission-
ary. Under Tennessee conditions more runner
plants are formed from a given number of mother
plants of the new variety than with Howard
(Premier). Compared with the Missionary the
fruit of the new variety is larger, darker red in
color, and better flavored. The berries of the
Howard (Premier) are softer than those of the
new variety.

One vigorous mother plant of the new variety
will produce from a few to more than one hun-
dred runner plants, depending upon soil fertility
and growing conditions, and large crops of me-
dium red berries will be produced in mid-season
to late. The foliage of the plant is medium in
size, medium green in color, smooth and glossy.
Some leaf blight and leaf spot have been noted,
but the foliage is comparatively healthy.

The berries produced by this plant are large in
size and retain their size throughout the season.
Their shape varies from long conic to round conic
with a few berries wedge-shaped. The surface
of the berry is medium red in color, glossy and
attractive. The flesh is firm, medium red and
somewhat lighter colored toward the center.
The fruit is subacid and good in flavor. Other
characteristics of the new strawberry are as
follows:

Plants: Medium in number; vigorous; medium
in height; very productive; spring bearing.

Susceptibility:

Insect.—Weevil.

Diseases.—Some blight and leaf spot.

Runners: Medium in length; medium in thick-
ness; internodes medium.

Leaves: Medium in size; medium green in color;
smooth; glossy.

Petiole: Medium in thickness.

Flowers: Perfect.

Date of bloom.—April 12, 1941, at Jackson,
Tennessee. Medium in time of bloom.

Length of blooming season.—1 month.

Size: Diameter, 1½ inches. Medium in size.

Petals: Number, 5 to 7. Large in size.

Stamens: Numerous.

Receptacle: Medium in size.

Fruit stems: Long; medium in thickness; semi-
erect.

Pedicels: Medium in length; medium thickness.

Fruit:

Season.—Midseason to late.

Date of ripening.—Started May 13, 1941, at
Jackson, Tenn.

Length of season.—Two to three weeks.
Picking quality: Good (long stems).
Shipping quality: Good. Large in size; retains size; uniformity good; regular; round conic to long conic, sometimes wedged.
Apex: Pointed.
Surface color: Medium Red R4/8 (Munsell Book of Color, published by Munsell Color Co., Inc., 1929). Glossy; attractive; colors evenly.
Calyx: Large; raised; leafy.
Color.—Medium green.
Adherence to Fruit.—Medium.
Sepals: Long; medium in width.
Seeds: Medium in number. Sunken, rarely raised.

Flesh: Medium Red in color R5/12 (Munsell Book of Color); slightly lighter towards the center. Juicy; firm; subacid.

Quality: Good.

5 *Use:* Dessert; canning; market; home.

Desirability: A good late ripening variety.

What is claimed is:

10 A healthy, prolific strawberry plant variety substantially as illustrated and described, characterized by subacid, well flavored fruits which are medium red becoming lighter toward the center of the berry, which ripen from midseason to late, and by the development of a large number of runner plants.

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