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(54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘OMAHA’**

Related U.S. Application Data

(50) Latin Name: *Fragaria x ananassa*
Varietal Denomination: **Omaha**
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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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A01H 5/08 (2018.01)
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./209**
CPC *A01H 6/7409* (2018.05)
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides new and distinct strawberry plant designated as ‘Omaha’ (a.k.a. ‘109393’).

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2019/0069458 P1 Feb. 28, 2019

8 Drawing Sheets

1

2

Latin name of the genus and species: *Fragaria x ananassa*.
Varietal denominations: ‘Omaha’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to new and distinct strawberry plant designated as ‘Omaha’ (a.k.a. ‘109393’). ‘Omaha’ (a.k.a. ‘109393’) is the result of a controlled-cross between a female parent cultivar designated ‘Taia’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 28,724) and a male parent cultivar designated ‘Ginza’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,934) made by the Inventor and was first fruited in Watsonville, Calif. growing fields. Following selection and during testing, the plant was originally designated ‘109393’ and subsequently named ‘Omaha’. ‘Omaha’ is a day-neutral plant.

The new strawberry plant was asexually reproduced via runners (stolons) by the inventor at Watsonville, Calif. Asexual propagules from the original source have been tested in Watsonville growing fields and to a limited extent, grower fields in high elevation. The properties of these plant were found to be transmissible by such asexual reproduction. These plants are stable and reproduce true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to new and distinctive strawberry plant designated as ‘Omaha’ (a.k.a. ‘109393’). The plant is primarily adapted to the climate and growing conditions of the central coast of California. This region provides the necessary temperatures required for it to produce a strong vigorous plant and to remain in fruit production from March through October. The nearby Pacific Ocean provides the needed humidity and moderate day temperatures and evening chilling to maintain fruit quality for the production months.

The following traits and photographs in combination distinguish strawberry plant ‘Omaha’ from known strawberry plants. In addition, these plants were confirmed, or will be confirmed to be a unique strawberry germplasm using Short Sequence Repeats (SSRs). Plants for the botanical measurements in the present application were grown as annuals. Any color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs depict various characteristics of the cultivars as nearly true as possible to make color reproductions.

FIG. 1A shows ‘Omaha’ plant about 6-month old.

FIG. 1B shows ripe and near-ripe fruits of ‘Omaha’ about 8-month old.

FIG. 1C shows flowers of ‘Omaha’.

FIG. 1D shows fruits of ‘Omaha’.

FIG. 1E shows cut fruits of ‘Omaha’.

FIG. 1F shows upper leaf of ‘Omaha’.

FIG. 1G shows lower leaf of ‘Omaha’.

FIG. 1H shows petiole of ‘Omaha’.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

‘Omaha’ (a.k.a. ‘109393’)

The following traits and photographs in combination distinguish strawberry variety ‘Omaha’ from the known strawberry varieties. Plants for the botanical measurements in the present application were grown as annuals. In the following description, color references are made to The

Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

‘Omaha’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions, and the phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment. The following observations, measurements, and comparisons describe this plant as grown under normal conditions in Watsonville, Calif. unless otherwise noted. The age of plants when described in Table 1 below is eight months.

TABLE 1

‘Omaha’ Characteristics			
CharType	Characteristic	‘Omaha’	
General	Plant Habit	annual	
	Plant Growth Habit	semi-upright	
	Day length	Day Neutral	
	Plant Height (cm)	28	
	Plant Width (cm)	33	
	Density of foliage	medium	
	Plant vigor	moderate to high	
	Crown diameter (cm)	3.0 to 4.0	
	Leaf	Leaflets per Leaf	3
		Terminal leaflet width (mm)	8.9
		Terminal leaflet length (mm)	7.4
		Teeth per terminal leaflet:	23
		Shape of the terminal leaflet base	acute to obtuse
		Shape of terminal leaflet in cross-section	straight to concave
		Shape of the terminal leaflet margin	serrate to crenate
		Color of upper side of leaflet	137A
		Color of lower side of leaflet	137C
		Leaf blistering	weak
	Leaf glossiness	medium	
	Limbs	Petiole length (cm)	20 to 25
Petiole diameter (mm)		3.28	
Petiole color		145A	
Petiolute length (cm)		1	
Petiolute diameter (mm)		2.28	
Petiolute Color		145A	
Stipule length (cm)		2.8	
Stipule width (cm)		1.1	
Stipule anthocyanin color		53A	
Stipule color (color code)		145A	
Inflorescence	Pedicel length (cm)	9.5 to 16.5	
	Pedicel diameter (mm)	1.34	
	Pedicel color (color code)	145A	
	attitude of hairs on petiole and pedicel	outwards	
	Inflorescence position relative to foliage	above	
	Flower arrangement of petals	touching	
	Peduncle length (cm)	16.0 to 29.5	
	Peduncle diameter (mm)	2.67	
	Peduncle color (RHS color code)	145A	
	Peduncle pubescence	medium	
	Petal length (cm)	1.4	
	Petal width (cm)	1.4	
	Petal number per flower	5 to 6	
	Upper Petal color	155C	
	Lower Petal color	155C	
	Calyx diameter (cm)	4	
	Corolla diameter (cm)	2.75	
	Sepal length (cm)	1.1 to 2.1	
	Sepal width (cm)	0.8 to 1.1	
	Time of flowering (50% of plants in bloom)	March	
	Shape of stigma	capitate	
	Color of stigma	6A	
	Length of style (mm)	2	
	Color of style	6A	
	Color of the ovary	145A	
	Length of the stamens (mm)	3 to 5.5	
	Number of stamen	24 to 33	
	Shape of anther	dorsifixed	

TABLE 1-continued

‘Omaha’ Characteristics		
CharType	Characteristic	‘Omaha’
5	Size of anther	small
	Anther length (mm)	0.75
	Shape of anther	dorsifixed
	Color of anther	12A
	Amount of pollen	medium
10	Color of pollen	4A
	Color of filament	149D
	Length of filament (mm)	2.5 to 5
	Number of flowers per truss	3 to 6
	Stolon number	2 to 5
15	Stolon anthocyanin	181A
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
20	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
25	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
30	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
35	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
40	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83
	Stolon	3.83

‘Albion’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,228) owned by University of California is a commercial strawberry variety that is similar to, but distinguished from ‘Omaha’. The fruit yield of ‘Omaha’ exceeds the yield of ‘Albion’ in multiple annual testing cycles performed at the breeders test location in Watsonville Calif. ‘Omaha’ produces abundant quantities of stolon that must be cut by hand labor in the fruiting field. ‘Omaha’ does not produce large quantities of stolon (runners) during the fruiting period after propagation in California nurseries and Watsonville fruiting field, which saves labor of about \$1,500 per acre because stolon must be removed in order to effect efficient harvest and continued flowering.

Both of the parents of ‘Omaha’ produce fruit that is lighter in redness coloration than ‘Omaha’. One of the parents of ‘Omaha’, a strawberry plant variety named ‘Ginza’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,934) has been observed to have foliage of a lighter green coloration than ‘Omaha’. The foliage and plant structure of ‘Ginza’ is more dense than that of ‘Omaha’. The other parent of ‘Omaha’ is a strawberry plant variety named ‘Taia’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 28,724). The foliage and plant structure of ‘Taia’ is somewhat more dense than that of ‘Omaha’. The foliage and plant structure of

'Omaha' allows better fruit harvest visibility and the canopy can be described as more open than the canopy observed for of each of it's parents. 'Omaha' demonstrated better shelf life, less susceptibility to bruising discoloration and the skin of the fruit of 'Omaha' was observed to better resist abrasion 5 compared to each of it's parents in testing done over multiple weeks of annual fruiting seasons. When 'Omaha' is compared to the male parent, 'Omaha' is a smaller plant. Additionally, 'Omaha' presents fruit with a stronger red color and with a longer fruit shape than the male parent. 10

When 'Omaha' is compared to the female parent, 'Omaha' presents a higher strawberry pH than the strawberries of the female parent. Additionally, 'Omaha' is less dense with foliage and presents fruit with a longer fruit shape than the female parent.

The invention claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of strawberry plant named 'Omaha' substantially as shown and described herein.

* * * * *



Figure 1A



Figure 1B

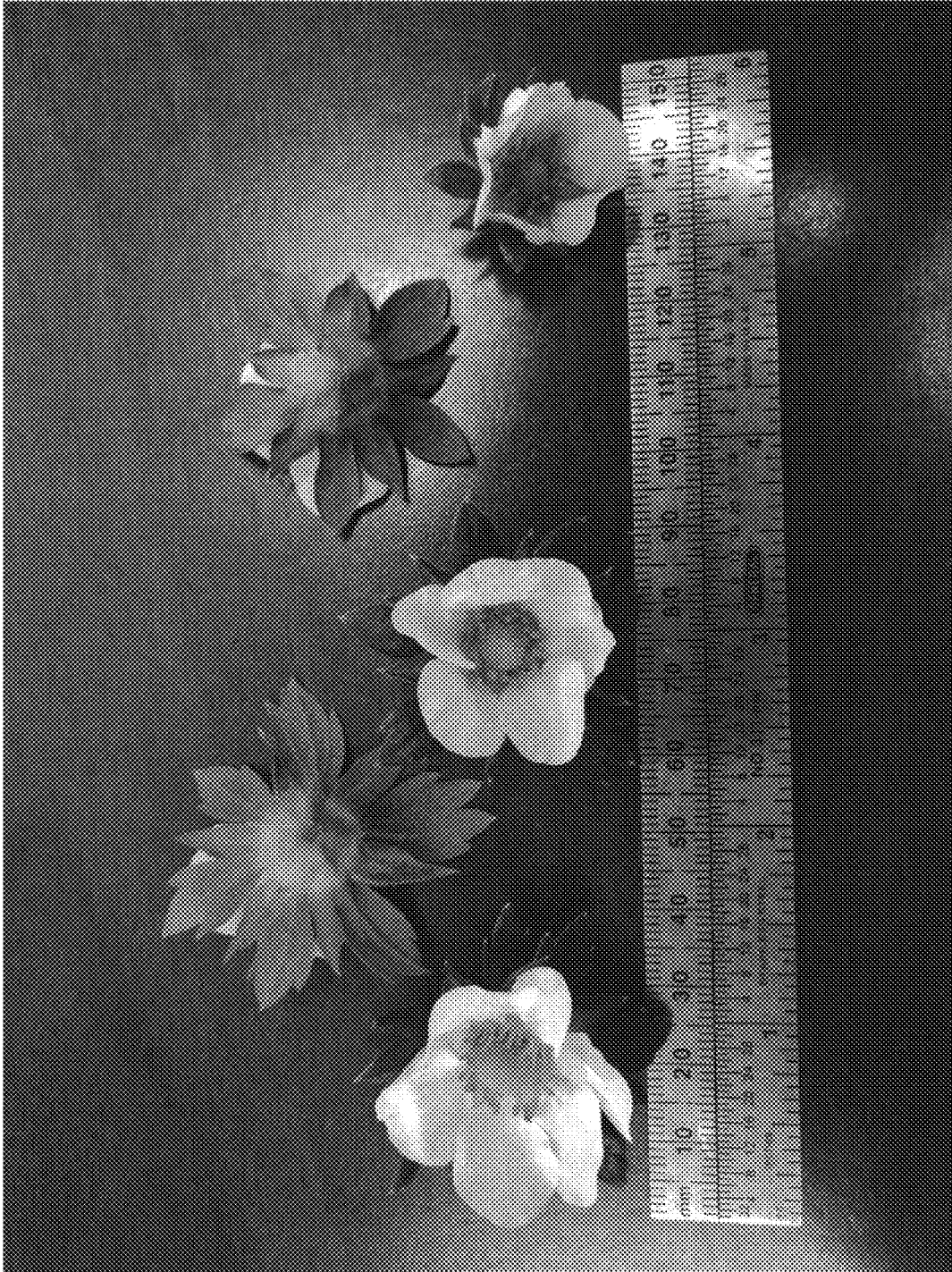


Figure 1C

Figure 1D





Figure 1E

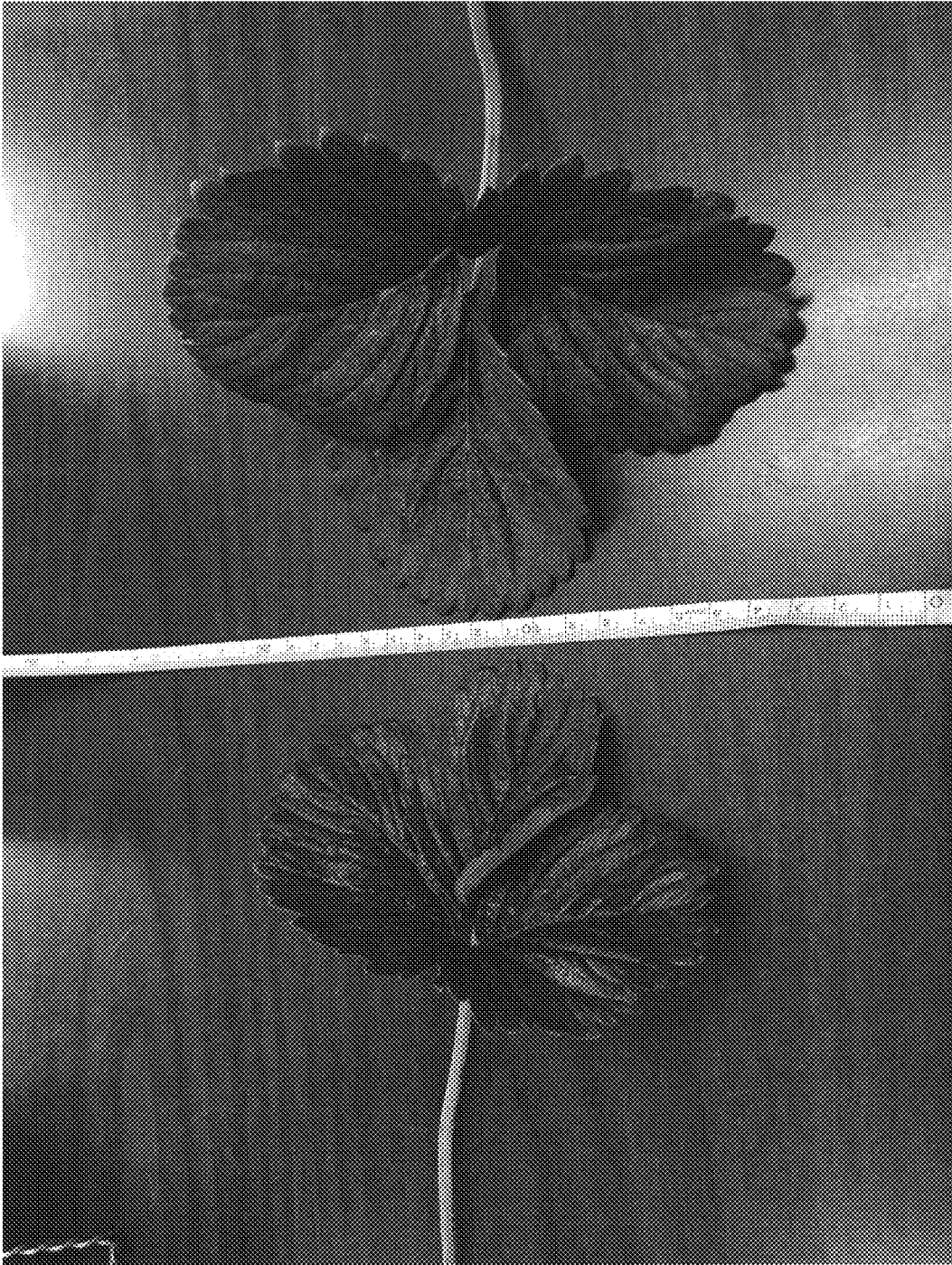


Figure 1F

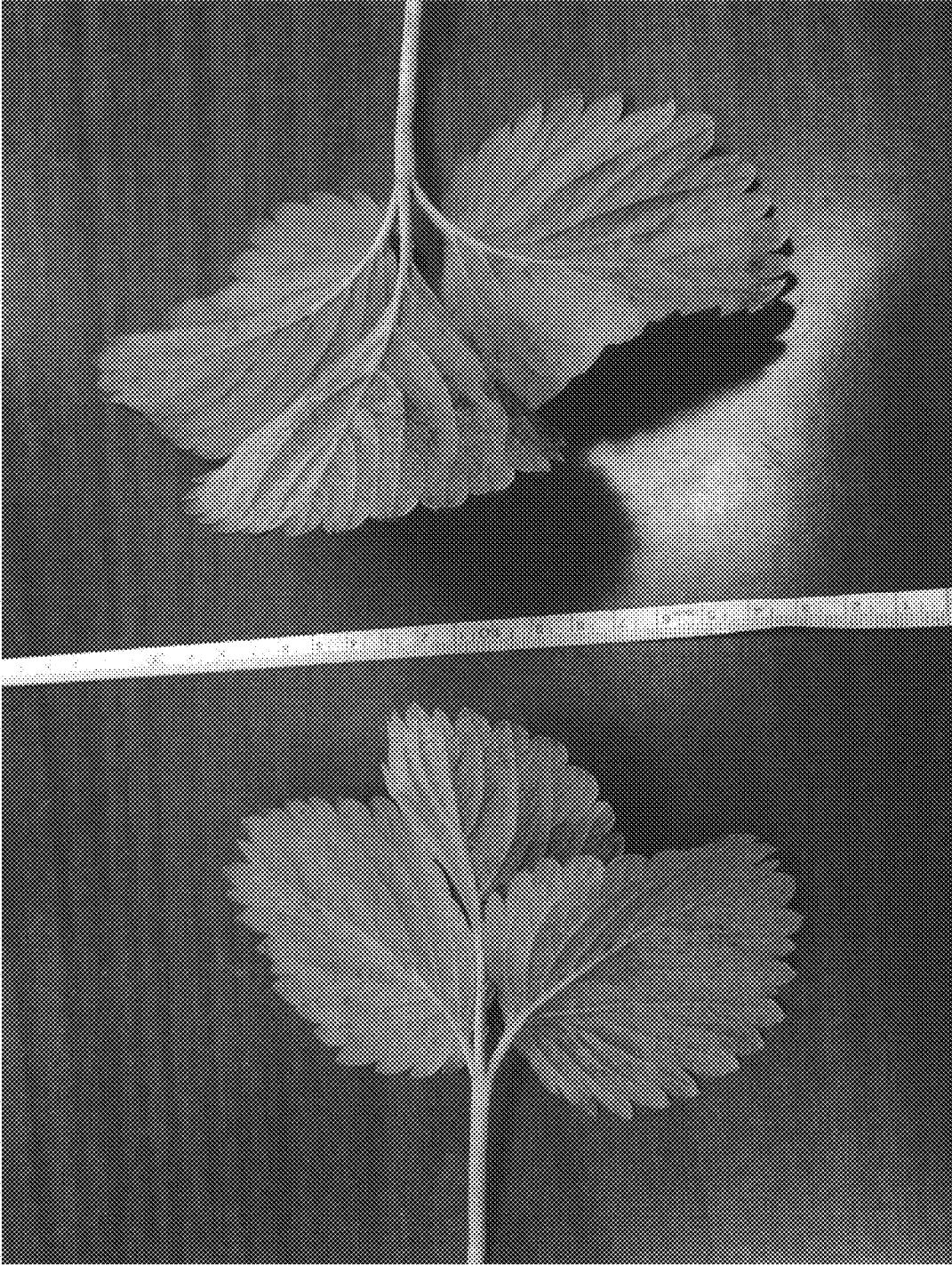


Figure 1G



Figure 1H