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Columbian Strawberry

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For Sale By

THE COLUMBIAN STRAWBERRY CO.,

R. H. C. MITCHELL, Secretary.

FRUITLAND, TENN.

THE COLUMBIAN STRAWBERRY

Originated on the farm of Allen Robertson, a colored man in this neighborhood. His wife, seeing a thrifty strawberry plant growing by the gate, where it had come up through the grass, and having no plants on the farm, took this one up and set it in her garden. The plant was cultivated and in the third year enough plants had been grown from it to set out an acre, which bore, last year, 1891, 100 crates of 24 quarts to the crate. The colored man made \$200 from the fruit that year. He fertilized his berry with the Crystal City, three rows to six of the Columbian, not knowing that the Columbian was a self-fertilizer, a staminate.

It is the best early variety for market, earlier and larger than the Crescent, better flavored, brings more money per crate, stronger vine has never rusted, foliage twice as heavy as Crescent. In the spring when they need protection from rains, that beat out the pollen, and frost, are hardy and prolific. It has more good points than any other berry that West Tennessee grows. Took the premium at the meeting of the West Tennessee Horticultural Society held at Humboldt, Tennessee. It excels Crescent in size, and earliness by eight days, larger and easier picked. Girls made \$2.00 by noon at two cent per quart. One lady picked 22 berries from one plant at one picking. Thirty-six berries fill a quart box.

Plants will be for sale this fall and spring at 50 cents per dozen, \$3.00 per hundred, \$20 per thousand, by the

COLUMBIAN STRAWBERRY CO.,

R. H. C. Mitchell, Secretary,

Fruitland, Tenn.

TESTIMONIALS:

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology, }
Washington, D. C., May 21, 1892. }

MR. R. H. C. MITCHELL, Fruitland, Tenn.: Dear Sir—Not long since I received the box of specimens of the Columbian Strawberry in good condition. This really seems to be a very good variety, as it is not only early, but of good size and color, and may prove to be a success in many parts of the country. I think it ought to be tried in all the State Experimental Stations. I can see by the plant sent that it is very thrifty, and I trust that this new strawberry of yours may prove to be an acquisition.

Very truly, H. E. VANDEMAN, Pomologist.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology, }
Washington, D. C., May 27, 1892. }

MR. R. H. C. MITCHELL, Fruitland, Tenn.: Dear Sir—The second lot of Columbian Strawberries reached us in very good condition. The berry is larger than Crescent, and very much firmer. It is a little light in color and somewhat rough in outline; but it is of fair quality, and if as productive as the Crescent it is certainly a promising market variety. Thanking you for the specimens, I remain,

Very truly, W. A. TAYLOR, Acting Pomologist.

Humboldt, Tenn., June 1, 1892.

R. H. C. MITCHELL, Esq., Fruitland, Tenn.: Dear Sir—John Woodard gave me a quart of your Columbian Strawberries this spring. The berry is large and fine; looks extra well, and is firm and solid, and everything about it indicates that it is a good, safe shipper. The taste of it is equal to any berry, and superior to many. I have formed a very high opinion of your Columbian.

Yours, etc., W. I. MCFARLAND.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This is to certify that I have been planting strawberries for 20 years, and now have 10 acres of Mitchell's Earl, and have grown several sorts; but the Columbian that was shown here this year and shipped from this town, is the best berry I ever saw, and there were fifty or more gentlemen who saw them, and the expression from all was that it was a fine berry.

JOHN A. ROE, Humboldt, Tenn.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I will state in regard to the Columbian berry, raised by Roberson & Woodard, that I live near them, and have paid special attention to watching their berries this season, and I can say that they are a fine berry, and are at least one week earlier than the Crescent. The reason I know this is, I had the finest Crescent berry patch in my neighborhood, and on better land for berries than they had theirs on, and the bulk of their crop was on the market just eight days before mine was. They had their big day's shipping just eight days before I did. The plant is very fine, and I would advise all persons raising berries to try this plant.

I have served as an officer in this county for about twelve years, and am well known here, and everyone living at a distance from here can write and ascertain my character here.

J. T. PRUITT.

Humboldt, Tenn., June 4, 1892.

EDITOR FRUIT GROWERS' JOURNAL, Cobden, Ill.: I was in the new strawberry patch that I called your attention to the 15th of April. I send you a quart of the berries. Forty berries filled the quart. One of the pickers tells me she picked 23 berries from one of the plants. Some one may want the papers on this statement, so I will give her name: Mrs. Martha Bledsoe, a reliable lady. The plants are 12 inches high, and have the best crop of berries that I have seen this year. This will be the big Monday with the ripening. The mau who has one acre with a one-half stand with gather 15 or 18 crates today, and they were gathered Saturday. They came in a week before the Crescent, and that is the main crop. The first to ripen was on the 27th of April—one quart. They came with the Michel and Crystal City, and are as productive as the Crescent. The berry averages a little larger than Crescent. It is a self-fertilizer. It equals the Michel or Crystal City in making plants, but the foliage is the rankest that we have here. The berry is not like anything we grow here; it is solid and firm, inclined to dry after gathered; fine flavor, not too sweet or too sour. I think this berry will suit our commission men, and hope all who receive it this year will report as to shipping qualities. I shall call it the "Columbian." I have received quite a number of letters since writing the first article, one of which was from Prof. H. E. VanDeman, Pomologist at Washington, D. C., asking for samples of the fruit. I sent him today a box of the fruit and one of the vines.

Fruitland, Tenn., May 9th, 1892.

R. H. C. MITCHELL.

We received the berries above mentioned; but, unfortunately, they were sent through the mail in a paper box which had been crushed, and the berries were many of them in a mushy condition. A few had retained very nearly their normal shape. In form the berry is long and pointed; good color, and the flavor and aroma recalled boyhood days when gathering wild strawberries in the meadows of Eastern New York. They seem a trifle less acid than the old Wilson. We are inclined to believe the Columbian may be a valuable acquisition to the list of market strawberries. We have a pair of the plants growing and shall give them as good, not much better, an opportunity to show what they are, as would be given in field cultivation. The berries ought to have been sent in a wooden box.—Fruit Growers' Journal.

We were presented with a quart of these berries by the owner of the plants a few days ago and they were as fine as we ever saw. It is a large, heart shaped berry, very firm, resembling the Crescent and Wilson, and looks as if it might be a cross between the two. The berries are eight or ten days earlier than the Crescent and bears fully as heavy. We tested some of them under disadvantageous circumstances and found them to stand well, although they had been roughly handled before we received them. We think this the coming berry. Esq. R. H. C. Mitchell had the honor of naming the new berry the "Columbian."—Southern Horticulturist, May 15.