

FL 16.30-128 Strawberry

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Summary

FL 16.30-128 is a new strawberry with excellent conical fruit shape, bright red color and exceptional flavor and sugar levels throughout the season. Growers are encouraged to choose fertility rates and disease management options according to the recommendations outlined in this report.

Characteristics

FL 16.30-128 is a new short-day strawberry that is in the release process at UF/IFAS and is expected to be commercialized during the 2021-2022 season. It originated from a cross between two unreleased selections, FL 13.27-142 (female parent) and selection FL 12.90-53 (male parent).



Figure 1. Plants and fruit of FL 16.30-128 on a commercial farm near Wimauma, FL in February, 2020.

FL 16.30-128 has very consistently conical fruit shape, with fruit size similar to ‘Florida Brilliance’ (Fig. 1). Fruit color is slightly lighter than ‘Florida Brilliance’ but not as light red as Sensation® ‘Florida127’. The fruit have firmness similar to ‘Florida Brilliance’.

The average soluble solids content (°Brix) of the fruit is similar to Sensation® throughout the whole season, making it an excellent candidate for processing uses. Its flavor has been rated equal to or better than Sensation® at every harvest date tested. It is efficient to harvest due to its upright yet compact plant habit. Early yields (late November through January) have been similar to Sensation® and less than ‘Florida Brilliance’.

Disease Resistance

FL 16.30-128 has a disease resistance profile that is different from the two commercial standards (Table 1). Compared to ‘Florida Brilliance’, FL 16.30-128 appears to be slightly less susceptible to Botrytis fruit rot but is more susceptible to anthracnose fruit rot and charcoal rot. The susceptibility to charcoal rot is the most problematic due to the lack of good chemical and cultural controls for this disease.

Table 1. Disease resistance profile of FL 16.30-128 compared to ‘Florida Brilliance’ (R = resistant, MR = moderately resistant, MS = moderately susceptible, S = susceptible, HS = highly susceptible).

Disease	Brilliance	16.30-128
Anthracnose fruit rot	R	S
Angular leaf spot	MS	MS
Botrytis fruit rot	S	MS
Charcoal rot	MR	HS
Colletotrichum crown rot	S	S
Phytophthora root rot	S	S
Powdery mildew	MR	MR

Management Recommendations

Growers will want to be sure not to plant FL 16.30-128 in soils known to contain high levels of *Macrophomina phaseolina* inoculum. Regular applications of Captan and Thiram throughout the growing season will help control anthracnose fruit rot. Phosphites should be the primary product applied for management of *Phytophthora cactorum*, as there has been some resistance reported to mefenoxam, the primary ingredient in Ridomil Gold®.

FL 16.30-128 appears to need higher N applications throughout the season to maximize plant growth and yield compared to the current commercial standard varieties. In order to provide more precise recommendations, fertilization trials will be underway during the 2020-21 season.

Growers are encouraged to plant FL 16.30-128 between Oct 1 and Oct 15, as the variety is not particularly well suited to either early or late planting.

Nursery Considerations

Plants should be available from licensed nurseries beginning during the 2021-22 season. Clean stock has been distributed to all nurseries supplying Florida growers on an equitable basis.

Runnering of FL 16.30-128 is less than for the current commercial standard varieties, and runner yields are expected to be significant lower than for 'Florida Brilliance' and Sensation®, particularly in nurseries in cooler climates. As in the fruiting field, this variety will likely require more nutrition in the nursery than the current standards. Nurseryman should adjust planting densities and growing practices accordingly.

Contact

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