

Variety Characteristics - Prize



Plant Habit

Prize develops a moderate canopy compared with other PSI Everbearers. Fruit is typically held on strong trusses that remain upright in early stages of flowering falling away from the canopy as fruits develop.

Plant Density

44,000/ha in soil. Best results in substrate have been achieved with 7-8 plants per linear metre.

Culture

Good results have been achieved in both soil and substrate systems. Due to the canopies upright nature Prize can suit higher density planting in the soil. Truss support will likely need to be adjusted on substrate systems to avoid truss kinking.

Prize can be over-wintered in both systems and has proved reasonably tolerant of weather conditions over a wide geographical growing area. Successful cultivation from Scotland through to mid Germany has been achieved.

Disease resistance

The variety does appear to have a reasonable degree of tolerance to phytophthora and wilt but is not resistant to these diseases.

Prize has a much greater tolerance to mildew pressure than all of the other PSI Everbearers but is not resistant. If seen Mildew usually appears on the fruit before leaves become symptomatic. We recommend a prophylactic Mildew and Phytophthora prevention program.

Fruit Attributes

Prize berries have an average fruit weight of 16 grams. Well formed conic berries are typical with little misshape in normal conditions.



Average Brix 8, higher early and late in the season.

Brix can dip at maximum fruit load especially if this coincides with a period of excessive temperatures.

Colour is bright, light red with a good gloss.

Fruit is firm with good skin strength but will show bruising if mistreated. Shelf life is improved when compared with Premier and Triumph.

Husbandry

Prize will not produce many runners in production.
Some de-leafing can be a benefit from mid-season.
Crown thinning of over-wintered plants is normally required.

Yield and season

Yields of 1.1kg per plant have been reported on some well managed table top sites.
However the average of reported yields would be 900gms.
An early flush of 100-180gms of good quality fruit can be available from the nursery flower flush in June from an early March planting. Second main flush usually starts end July.

Plant Material

Good results have been achieved from bareroot material.
Spanish, Dutch and American material is available.
A few Dutch growers have seen some benefit using potted material, however this is normally only appropriate in certain agronomic situations e.g. late planting.