# **'Sweet Sunrise' Strawberry**

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'Sweet Sunrise' is a new June-bearing (short-day) strawberry (*Fragaria* ×*ananassa* Duchesne ex Rozier) cultivar from the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) breeding program in Corvallis, OR, released in cooperation with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and the Washington State University Agricultural Research Center. 'Sweet Sunrise' is a high-yielding cultivar that produces medium to large, firm, attractive, easily capped fruit with excellent quality that ripen in the early season. A U.S. plant patent application (S.N. 13/694,950) has been submitted.

#### Origin

'Sweet Sunrise' was selected in 2000 from the cross 'Puget Reliance' × B 754 made in 1998 and was tested as ORUS 2240-1 (Fig. 1). The purpose of the cross was to combine the characteristics of elite eastern and western U.S. breeding material. 'Puget Reliance' (USPP 9310; BC 77-2-72 × WSU 1945) is a standard in the Pacific Northwest, especially for the fresh market strawberry industry, as a result

of it being high-yielding, large-fruited, and well-adapted to the Pacific Northwest climate and virus disease complexes (Moore, 1995; Moore et al., 1995). B 754 (MDUS 5132 × NYUS 113) was an advanced selection in the USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD, breeding program directed by G.J. Galletta (deceased) from 1977–98 that was identified by C.E. Finn as being potentially valuable germplasm for the breeding program in Oregon because of its large, attractive fruit, very good eating quality, and perceived high yields. 'Sweet Sunrise' was tested at the Oregon State University-North Willamette Research and Extension Center (Aurora, OR), Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center (WSU-Puyallup; Puyallup, WA), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Pacific Agri-Food Research Center (AAFC; Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada) as well as at grower fields in Washington and Oregon. The most thorough commercial testing was conducted at Goddik Farms (Dayton, OR), Kraemer Farms (Mount Angel, OR), Janzen Farms (Amity, OR), and Sakuma Bros. Farms (Burlington, WA). At the public research facilities, 'Sweet Sunrise' was planted in multiple replicated trials established from 2003 to 2012.

In all research trials, the plants were grown in a matted row system, the predominant commercial system in the Pacific Northwest. Plants were grown in eight-plant plots with plants initially set at 46 cm apart in the row in Oregon and British Columbia and 38 cm apart in Washington. The trials had three replications. The plantings were fertilized, renovated, and irrigated using standard commercial practices; 350 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup> fertilizer (16N-7P-13.3K) applied after renovation and another 175 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup> in spring; application of herbicide (clopyralid) followed by mowing of old foliage with other pre-emergent herbicides used in summer (sulfentrazone, pendimethalin) and fall (pendimethalin, napropamide); and 2.5 to 5.0 cm of water per week as irrigation or rainfall. Other than two fungicide applications (one each of azoxystrobin and cyprodinil/fludioxonil) during bloom to control botrytis fruit rot (Botrytis cinerea Pers.: Fr.), the plantings received no pesticide applications. Fruits were harvested once a week. The average fruit weight for a season was calculated as a weighted mean based on the weight of a randomly selected subsample of 25 fruit from each harvest. The weighted mean was calculated by multiplying the 25 berry weight each week by the total harvest for that week and then that figure for each week was summed and then divided by the total harvest for the season. In multiple-year trials, yield, average fruit weight, and average fruit rot were analyzed as a split plot in time with year as the main plot and cultivar as the subplot. Fruit firmness was measured in the WSU-Puyallup and AAFC trials as the force required for a 4-mm-diameter cylinder (Hunter Spring Mechanical Force Gauge Series L; Ametek, Hatfield, PA) to penetrate to a depth of 6 mm in five randomly selected fruit from each harvest. The average fruit firmness for a season was calculated as a weighted mean similarly to the average fruit weight. The plantings and the analyses (PROC GLM; SAS Institute, Cary, NC) included the industry standards 'Hood', 'Puget Reliance' 'Tillamook', and/or 'Totem' along with other advanced selections or cultivars being evaluated for adaptation (Finn et al., 2004; Hokanson and Finn, 2000). Plant vigor and fresh fruit characteristics including appearance, firmness, external and internal color, capping (ease with which the calyx was removed), and flavor were rated subjectively at least three times each year in Oregon using a 1 to 9 scale (1 = poor vigor, uneven roughappearance, soft fruit, very light-colored, poor separation of calyx from receptacle, and poor flavor and 9 = very vigorous, very uniform and attractive, very firm, dark red, calyx separates easily from the receptacle, and intense flavor, respectively). In multiple years, duplicate subsamples of ≈200 g each were taken randomly from frozen and thawed harvested fruit and were evaluated for soluble solids content, pH, and titratable acidity in the laboratory (Mathey et al., 2013). Analysis of variance was conducted on the fruit chemistry and subjectively evaluated trait data after

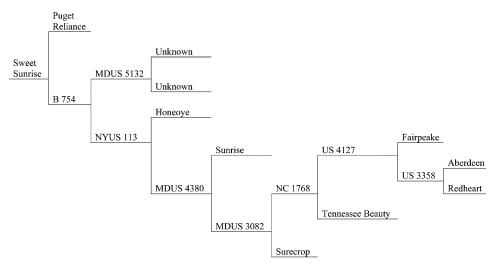


Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Sweet Sunrise' strawberry; the female parent is on top.

checking for normality (PROC UNIVARI ATE; SAS Institute) and transformation before analysis was required for the subjectively evaluated traits. Fruit were also evaluated informally as a thawed, individually quick frozen (IQF) product by growers, processors, and researchers.

#### **Description and Performance**

'Sweet Sunrise' was high-yielding in every trial with yields comparable to or higher than other recent releases such as 'Charm', 'Valley Red', and 'Sweet Bliss' or the industry standards

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Table 1. Yield, fruit weight, and percent fruit rot for 'Sweet Sunrise' and other cultivars in six replicated trials at Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center (Aurora, OR).

	Fruit wt (g) <sup>z</sup>		Fruit	rot (%)	Yield (kg·ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
Cultivar	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2	
2003 planted	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
Charm	17.9 a	11.2 c	8.5 a	4.2 c	46,851 ab	29,274 a	
Pinnacle	17.8 a	15.1 ab	4.6 a-c	12.5 a	48,495 a	20,339 bc	
Puget Reliance	17.8 a	10.0 c	4.0 bc	8.4 ab	35,946 cd	28,927 a	
Stolo	16.8 a	9.9 c	7.4 ab	4.9 ab	38,874 bc	21,823 bc	
Sweet Sunrise	17.7 a	13.1 a-c	3.0 c	4.6 c	43,714 a-c	25,196 ab	
Tillamook	17.6 a	15.2 a	4.0 bc	9.4 ab	47,482 ab	20,895 bc	
Totem	16.1 a	9.3 c	4.5 a-c	6.3 ab	28,577 d	18,177 c	
2004 planted	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
Sweet Sunrise	18.5 a	14.6 a	8.3 a	9.3 a	35,946 a	26,577 a	
Tillamook	18.2 a	10.9 ab	7.7 a	13.3 a	39,005 a	19,752 a	
Totem	15.4 a	10.1 b	12.2 a	7.3 a	32,345 a	20,484 a	
2006 planted	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Pinnacle	19.8 a	15.2 a	6.0 a	5.3 ab	29,334 a	21,539 a	
Sweet Sunrise	15.4 b	15.6 a	3.9 a	4.2 ab	31,297 a	25,765 a	
Tillamook	16.0 b	14.0 ab	3.7 a	2.3 b	40,843 a	34,685 a	
Totem	14.8 b	11.6 b	5.5 a	9.2 a	26,438 a	22,576 a	
2007 planted	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Sweet Sunrise	16.6 a	11.2 a	4.6 b	8.6 a	39,679 a	25,595 a	
Tillamook	15.0 a	11.6 a	5.7 ab	13.6 a	40,748 a	17,888 a	
Totem	14.9 a	9.7 a	9.9 a	16.9 a	23,051 b	14,167 a	
Valley Red	15.3 a	9.9 a	5.5 ab	6.1 a	30,514 b	19,254 a	
2008 planted	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	
Charm	13.6 c	10.3 cd	13.6 a	19.4 a-c	34,152 a	26,880 a	
Puget Crimson	13.1 c	13.5 b	11.9 ab	20.3 ab	28,721 ab	15,475 c	
Sweet Bliss	16.3 b	14.1 ab	16.9 a	23.6 a	34,561 a	21,429 a-c	
Sweet Sunrise	17.0 b	13.0 bc	10.2 ab	12.2 cd	33,713 a	23,781 ab	
Tillamook	20.0 a	16.6 a	6.0 b	11.7 d	29,679 a	21,267 a-c	
Totem	15.1 bc	9.5 d	16.2 a	14.5 b-d	23,477 b	17,689 bc	
Valley Red	14.5 bc	12.7 bc	6.0 b	14.0 b-d	29,439 a	24,133 ab	
2012 planted	2013		2013		2013		
Charm	13.2 b		11.4 a		32,640 a		
Sweet Bliss		5.3 a	17.3 a		19,561 ab		
Sweet Sunrise		.8 ab		.6 a	23,956 ab		
Totem	13.1 b		17	.9 a	13,353 b		

Means within a column and within a planting year followed by the same letter are not significantly different, P > 0.05, by least significant difference test.

'Tillamook', 'Totem', and 'Hood' in each location (Tables 1 and 2) (Daubeny et al., 1993; Finn et al., 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013; Hokanson and Finn, 2000). In Oregon trials,

'Sweet Sunrise' had mean yields that were consistently at or near the top for the cultivars in trial (Table 1). Often, the yields were significantly higher than 'Totem' in the first

Retired.

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harvest year but not the second. This was likely the result of variability in the trial because the yields were always numerically higher and the percent drop in yield from Year 1 to Year 2 was consistently a lower percentage than that of 'Totem' (data not shown). In Washington, 'Sweet Sunrise' was higher yielding than 'Hood' in the second year and had the highest yields over the two harvest seasons (Table 2). Although only harvested the first year after planting in British Columbia, 'Sweet Sunrise' was not as high yielding as some cultivars in the trial but had comparable yields to many Northwest standards such as 'Totem' (Table 2). Although not always significant, in nearly every trial at all three locations over each year of evaluation, 'Sweet Sunrise' was either the lowest or among the lowest for fruit lost to fruit rot (B. cinerea). The low incidence of fruit rot was a bit surprising because cultivars that ripen early when there is a greater chance of wet, humid conditions are often more inclined to fruit rot. The upright architecture of flowering/ fruiting truss in 'Sweet Sunrise' may partly be the reason for this lower incidence of fruit rot.

'Sweet Sunrise' fruit were typically medium to large-sized (Figs. 2 and 3; Tables 1 and 2). In every harvest season in Oregon,

WA, and British Columbia, the fruit weight was greater than that for 'Totem' although not always significantly (Table 1). In most cases, the fruit were statistically similar to 'Totem' in the first year but larger in the second. In Washington, the fruit were heavier than all other cultivars in the first year's harvest and heavier than 'Totem' and 'Hood' in the second year's harvest. In British Columbia, the fruit were comparable to 'Tillamook' and 'Puget Reliance' for fruit weight.

'Sweet Sunrise' has excellent overall fresh fruit quality (Tables 2 and 3). 'Sweet Sunrise' was firm at WSU-Puyallup and AAFC where fruit firmness was measured objectively in each year of trial (Table 2). The firmness values were generally reflective of observed fruit firmness. In subjective trials over several years and several plantings in Oregon, 'Sweet Sunrise' fruit were rated softer than 'Tillamook' but firmer than 'Puget Reliance' and 'Totem' (Table 3). The fruit were very attractive being well formed and symmetrical and rated as being more attractive than 'Puget Crimson', 'Tillamook', and 'Totem' (Table 3; Figs. 2 and 3). The earliest ripening cultivars tend also to be earlier flowering when environmental conditions are less suited to good pollinator activity and incomplete pollination can lead to "rough" fruit as a result of poorer achene set. 'Sweet Sunrise' had consistently firm fruit. 'Sweet Sunrise' fruit had excellent, uniform, and ideal external color, not typically as dark as 'Valley Red' but darker colored than 'Puget Reliance' (Fig. 3; Table 3). The fruit were uniformly deep, bright red when cut open (Table 3). In research evaluation, the fruit were rated as the poorest of the cultivars for capping (Table 3). Although this is a positive trait for the fresh market, it is a negative trait for fruit being harvested for processing. In the commercial trials of 'Sweet Sunrise' where the field is not picked until as late as possible to maximize harvest efficiency, no problems were mentioned by picking crews or fieldmen with capping. 'Sweet Sunrise' fruit tasted very good with a good acid to sweetness balance (Table 3). 'Sweet Sunrise' fruit were rated as not quite as good as 'Puget Crimson' for flavor, comparable to 'Sweet Bliss' and better than the other cultivars in the trial in

As part of the breeding program, thawed, IQF fruit of each genotype were evaluated by an expert panel of researchers and industry members annually in the off-season. In all

Table 2. Yield, fruit size, fruit firmness, and percent fruit rot for 'Sweet Sunrise' and other cultivars in replicated trial at Washington State University—Puyallup (Puyallup, WA) and for fruit yield, weight, and percent rot, and for seven genotypes, firmness at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada) planted in 2007 in both locations but only harvested in a single year in British Columbia.

	Fruit	Fruit wt (g)z		Fruit rot (%)		Fruit firmness (g)		Yield (kg·ha <sup>-1</sup> )	
Cultivar	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Washington									
Hood	13.8 bc	8.1 d	12.6 ab	12.0 a	144 b	190 a	25,555 a	13,682 b	
Puget Reliance	14.4 bc	10.7 bc	13.5 ab	15.3 a	159 ab	179 a	25,331 a	35,569 a	
Stolo	14.5 b	13.0 a	20.8 a	14.6 a	158 ab	175 a	26,519 a	30,093 ab	
Sweet Sunrise	17.8 a	12.4 ab	7.6 b	6.6 a	179 a	171 a	26,004 a	39,353 a	
Totem	11.7 c	9.8 cd	18.6 a	10.1 a	164 ab	182 a	21,139 a	32,387 a	
British Columbia									
Benton	13.1 a 7.7 ab					11,732 e			
Cavendish	16.9 a		9.9 ab	9.9 ab			10,896 e		
Firecracker	14.3 a		8.6 ab	8.6 ab			13,982 c–e		
Honeoye	14.3 a	14.3 a 7.0		7.0 ab			21,998 a		
Jewel	11.8 a	11.8 a 10.3 ab					14,474 b-e		
Kent	15.5 a		9.9 ab				19,787 a-c		
Pinnacle	17.3 a		4.0 b		358 b		14,364 b-e		
Puget Reliance	14.8 a	14.8 a 7.0 ab		196 d 14,585 b–e					
Shuksan	13.6 a						12,119 e		
Stolo	13.7 a	13.7 a 8.3 ab		221 d 19,665 a–d					
Sweet Bliss	17.0 a	17.0 a 8.3 ab			289 с		13,052 de	13,052 de	
Sweet Sunrise	14.6 a	14.6 a 5.9 ab			339 bc 13,754 d–e		13,754 d-e		
Tillamook	14.7 a		6.8 ab		433 a 20,696 ab				
Totem	11.5 a		10.0 ab		220 d		12,551 e		

Means within a column and within a location followed by the same letter are not significantly different, P > 0.05, by least significant difference test.



Fig. 2. Fruiting truss of 'Sweet Sunrise' strawberry.



Fig. 3. Capped, harvested fruit of 'Tillamook' (left) and 'Sweet Sunrise' (right) strawberries for processing.

evaluations, 'Sweet Sunrise' was rated excellent and comparable to 'Totem' for commercial processors (data not shown). The fruit chemistry values for 'Sweet Sunrise' were good and acceptable for commercial processing (Table 4). The soluble solids content was not as high as for 'Hood' or 'Puget Crimson' but comparable to the other cultivars in the trial. Ideally fruit for processing have a pH near 3.50 (Wrolstad et al., 2008). In the years of trial, the pH was comparable to 'Hood' and 'Totem', which are good processing cultivars (Table 4). Although 'Sweet Sunrise' fruit had low titratable acidities, they were comparable to 'Totem', 'Hood', and 'Tillamook', which are suitable for processed fruit. In the evaluation of chemistry of fruit from AAFC trials, the chemistry traits were comparable to those for 'Totem' or 'Tillamook' obtained in Oregon (data not shown).

One of the most valuable attributes of 'Sweet Sunrise' is its early ripening season (Table 5). Currently, 'Hood' is the most commonly grown early-season cultivar for the fresh market based on plant sales in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon Strawberry Commission, 2013). In Washington, 'Hood' and 'Sweet Sunrise' had a similar first harvest date (5%) but 'Sweet Sunrise' reached its 50% and 95% harvest dates 4 to 5 d ahead of 'Hood'. In Oregon, over different harvest seasons, 'Sweet Sunrise' was 5 to 7 d ahead of 'Totem' and 'Tillamook' for 5% and 50% harvest dates. 'Sweet Sunrise' typically had a few days longer harvest season in Oregon than 'Totem', 21 vs. 16 d, but was more comparable in Washington, 18 vs. 20 d, respectively (Table 5).

'Sweet Sunrise' plants were more vigorous than all of the other cultivars it was compared with (Fig. 4; Table 3). Although vigorous, the plant architecture was more similar to 'Tillamook', which is upright and open with fewer crowns per plant than 'Charm', which is dense with many crowns (Finn et al., 2013). Although not screened for any particular disease resistance in the Northwest, the plants held up well through the second harvest season and appear to have good virus tolerance. Under our minimal spray program, 'Sweet Sunrise' did not show any particular susceptibility to pests. In bench screening tests conducted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada), 'Sweet Sunrise' was found to be resistant to Phytophthora fragariae Hickman races Cdn-4 and Cdn-5.

The most outstanding characteristics of 'Sweet Sunrise' were its outstanding fruit quality as a fresh or processed product, its medium to large fruit weight, and its early ripening. These characteristics make it well suited for the fresh or processed fruit markets.

#### **Availability**

A plant patent application has been submitted. The nuclear stock plants for propagation have tested negative for *Apple mosaic*, *Tomato ringspot*, *Strawberry mild yellow edge*, *Tobacco streak*, and *Strawberry necrotic shock* viruses by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and negative for

Table 3. Mean scores over eight years for subjectively evaluated characteristics in the field for 'Sweet Sunrise' and six other strawberry cultivars planted at Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center (Aurora, OR).

		Fresh fruit characteristics						
				Color				
Cultivar	Plant vigor <sup>z</sup>	Appearance	Firmness	External	Internal	Capping	Flavor	
Puget Crimson	7.7 b <sup>y</sup>	7.1 b	7.7 ab	7.7 ab	7.3 bc	8.0 a	7.8 a	
Puget Reliance	7.3 bc	8.1 a	5.9 d	7.0 d	6.5 d	8.1 a	6.8 c	
Sweet Bliss	7.3 bc	7.9 a	7.7 ab	7.2 dc	7.0 c	7.3 b	7.6 ab	
Sweet Sunrise	8.5 a	7.8 a	7.7 ab	7.5 ab	7.5 ab	6.6 c	7.3 b	
Tillamook	6.9 c	7.1 b	8.2 a	7.5 bc	7.2 bc	7.3 b	6.7 c	
Totem	7.3 bc	7.3 b	7.0 c	7.5 ab	7.4 ab	7.7 ab	6.9 c	
Valley Red	7.5 b	8.3 a	7.3 bc	7.8 a	7.6 a	8.2 a	6.9 c	

<sup>2</sup>Traits scored on a 1 to 9 scale: 1 = poor vigor, uneven rough appearance, soft fruit, very light-colored, poor separation of calyx from receptacle ("capping"), and poor flavor and 9 = very vigorous, very uniform and attractive, very firm, dark red, calyx separates easily from the receptacle, and intense flavor, respectively. 

<sup>y</sup>Means within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different, P > 0.05, by least significant difference test.

Table 4. Soluble solids, pH, and titratable acidity for fruit purees of 11 strawberry cultivars grown at the Oregon State University—North Willamette Research and Extension Center (Aurora, OR) from 2004 to 2011 and for a single harvest in 2008 of seven cultivars planted with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada).

	Soluble solids	Ti	tratable acidity
Cultivar	(°Brix)z	pН	(g·L <sup>-1</sup> as citric acid)
Oregon			
Hood	10.16 a	3.55 a	8.31 cd
Pinnacle	7.86 bc	3.56 a	7.55 d
Puget Crimson	9.54 a	3.35 c	10.52 ab
Puget Reliance	8.27 bc	3.40 bc	9.10 b-d
Shuksan	7.98 bc	3.47 a-c	9.83 a-c
Stolo	8.03 bc	3.47 a-c	8.19 cd
Sweet Bliss	7.94 bc	3.36 c	11.10 a
Sweet Sunrise	8.27 bc	3.56 a	7.65 d
Tillamook	7.59 c	3.47 a-c	8.65 cd
Totem	8.64 b	3.51 ab	8.74 cd
Valley Red	7.56 c	3.49 a-c	8.40 cd
British Columbia			
Pinnacle	7.30	3.73	7.00
Puget Reliance	7.70	3.57	7.80
Stolo	7.10	3.52	8.30
Sweet Bliss	8.90	3.48	9.20
Sweet Sunrise	8.10	3.85	7.10
Tillamook	6.50	3.56	7.40
Totem	8.10	3.52	8.70

<sup>z</sup>Means within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different, P > 0.05, by least significant difference test.

Table 5. Mean dates when harvest passed 5%, 50%, and 95% of total yield and the length of the harvest season for 'Sweet Sunrise' and other cultivars picked in the same years from trials at Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center (OSU-NWREC; Aurora, OR) and at Washington State University (WSU)–Puyallup Research and Extension Center.

	Harvest season						
	No.z	5%	50%	95%	Length of harvest season (d)		
OSU-NWREC (Au	rora, OR)						
Sweet Sunrise	5	29 May	7 June	20 June	21		
Stolo	2	1 June	8 June	26 June	25		
Charm	3	5 June	12 June	21 June	16		
Totem	5	6 June	14 June	22 June	16		
Tillamook	5	5 June	15 June	23 June	18		
WSU-Puyallup (Puyallup, WA)							
Sweet Sunrise	2	11 June	18 June	29 June	18		
Stolo	2	12 June	21 June	1 July	19		
Hood	2	12 June	22 June	4 July	21		
Totem	2	15 June	23 June	5 July	20		
Puget Reliance	2	16 June	24 June	6 July	20		

<sup>2</sup>The number of trials where the cultivar was harvested in the same years as 'Sweet Sunrise' and that were included in the mean.



Fig. 4. Plants of 'Sweet Sunrise' (near, solid stand) and 'Totem' (far, sparse stand) in 2010 planted grower trial, June 2011, Dayton, OR.

Strawberry mottle, Strawberry veinbanding, Strawberry crinkle, Strawberry pallidosis, Strawberry latent ringspot, Beet pseudo yellows, and Fragaria chiloensis latent viruses in reverse transcription—polymerase chain reaction (PCR), phytoplasmas in PCR assays, and have indexed negative when grafted ontounder F. vesca L. Further information on licensing or a list of nurseries propagating 'Sweet Sunrise' are available on written request to C. Finn as is contact information for commercial laboratories that are able to genetically fingerprint vegetative tissue to

determine whether a genotype is 'Sweet Sunrise'. The USDA-ARS does not have commercial quantities of plants to distribute. In addition, plants of this release have been deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System, accession number CFRA 2118.001 (PI 664910), where they will be available for research purposes, including development of new cultivars.

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