

MNUS 210 (Winona™) Strawberry

James J. Luby¹

Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

David K. Wildung

North Central Research and Outreach Center, University of Minnesota, 1861 Highway 169E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Gene J. Galletta

United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Fruit Laboratory, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705

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MNUS 210 (Fig. 1) is a late-season, Junebearing (short-day) strawberry (*Fragaria ×ananassa* Duchesne) cultivar that is notable for bearing large fruit, being resistant to multiple diseases, and tolerating cold winter and warm summer temperatures that characterize the continental climate of the north central United States. It will likely be useful for strawberry producers in the midwestern and north-eastern United States and adjacent parts of Canada. MNUS 210 has been productive in matted row production systems on soils of heavy and light texture.

MNUS 210 is the first cultivar to be released from a breeding program begun in 1980 through the collaboration of the Univ. of Minnesota and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Fruit Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. The program was initiated to address the needs of strawberry producers in the midwestern United States who desired cold-hardy cultivars that had resistance to red stele root rot (caused by *Phytophthora fragariae* Hickman), as well as other diseases. In this program, seedlings were germinated and screened for resistance to red stele root rot in bench tests in Maryland and subsequently planted in Minnesota, where selection and testing were performed. MNUS 210 is sold as “Winona™” strawberry. Winona is a transliteration of the Dakota word often given as a name to a daughter who was the first-born child in a family. By analogy, Winona is a fitting designation for the first cultivar introduced from this collaboration.

Origin

MNUS 210 was raised as a seedling from the cross ‘Earliglow’ × MNUS 52 (Fig. 2), made in 1985 at St. Paul, Minn. MNUS 210 was selected at Becker, Minn., in 1987 by

G.J.G. and J.J.L. It was propagated for later observation in trials at the Univ. of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center (HRC) near Excelsior, Minn., and the North Central Research and Outreach Center (NCROC) at Grand Rapids, Minn., from 1988 to 1990, and at the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., in 1991 to 1997. Although it was not well adapted at Beltsville because of relatively low yield, MNUS 210 performed well at Minnesota locations and was subsequently included in replicated yield trials.

MNUS 210 was evaluated in replicated yield trials from 1992 through 1997 at three Minnesota locations. Plantings were established in 1991, 1993, and 1995 and harvested for the two subsequent seasons at three Univ. of Minnesota sites: the HRC, the NCROC, and the West Central Research and Outreach Center at Morris (WCROC). The HRC and WCROC have loam soils and are in USDA hardiness zone 4a (annual average minimum temperature of –31.7 to –34.4 °C) and the NCROC has a sandy loam soil and is in USDA hardiness zone 3b (average annual minimum

temperature of –34.5 to –37.2 °C). For further descriptions of these sites, see Luby et al. (1984). Trials at the HRC could not be harvested in 1993 due to flooding of plots from excessive rains. MNUS 210 and other common cultivars of the midwestern United States and eastern Canada were planted in a randomized complete-block design. Plants were spaced 0.45 m apart within rows that were 1.2 m apart and 4 m long. The plants were permitted to form a matted row that was ≈0.4 m wide. At the HRC and WCROC, the entire plots were mulched for protection during the winter in late October or early November with 10 to 15 cm of straw, which was removed in April. At the NCROC, however, a split-plot design was employed on 7-m-long plots that were split, with half of the plot being mulched and the other half receiving no mulch. All trials had straw mulch applied between the rows in the spring. All plots were irrigated, fertilized, and sprayed with fungicides and insecticides as needed in accordance with standard commercial recommendations.

The plots were harvested every 2 to 4 d as fruit ripened. The marketable yield and the weight of a sample of 20 berries were recorded for each plot. Relative season of each entry was calculated in each trial by determining the proportion of total yield for each plot that was harvested during the first 7 to 10 d of the harvest season for that location–year combination. Plots were also rated subjectively on a scale ranging from 1 to 9 for various diseases and apparent winter injury as opportunities arose to observe these situations in particular years or at particular locations. Data were analyzed using SAS (SAS Institute, Cary, N.C.).

Performance

The performance of MNUS 210 in replicated trials is documented in Tables 1, 2, and 3. MNUS 210 generally has produced larger



Fig. 1. Fruit of MNUS 210 strawberry.

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¹To whom requests for reprints should be addressed. E-mail address: lubyx001@maroon.tc.umn.edu

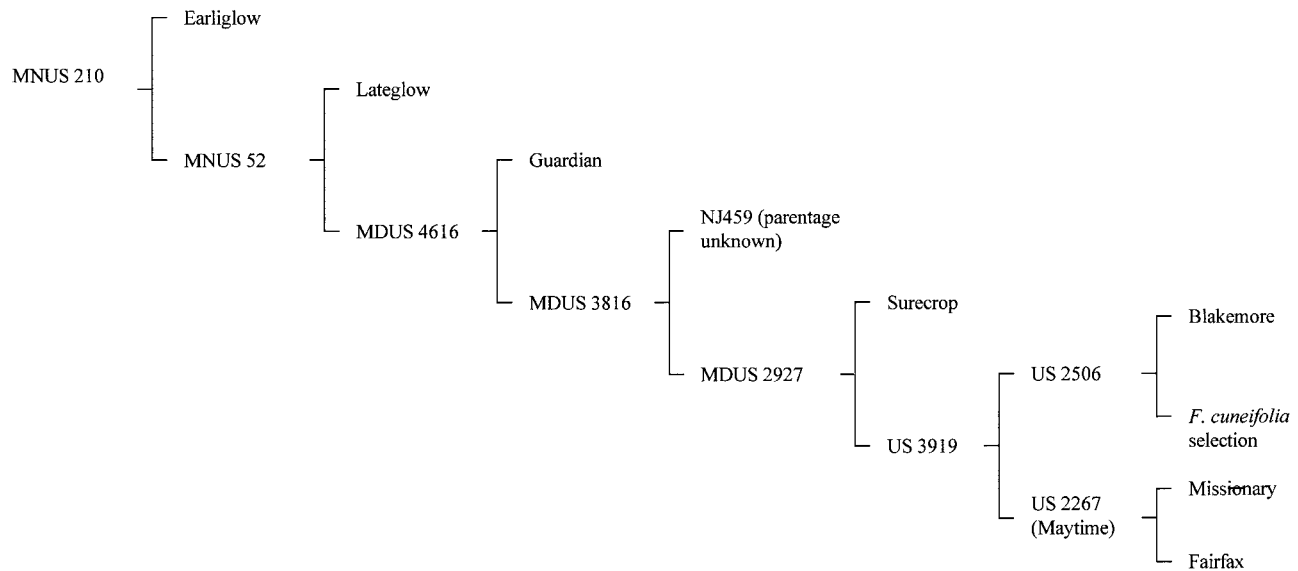


Fig. 2. Pedigree of MNUS 210 strawberry.

Table 1. Mean performance over 1992–97 for yield, average fruit weight, and early crop of strawberry cultivars at three locations in Minnesota. Plantings were established in 1991, 1993, and 1995 and harvested for the subsequent 2 years. The planting at Excelsior was not harvested in 1993 due to flooding.

Cultivar	Yield (mg·ha ⁻¹)				Fruit wt (g)				Early crop ² (%)			
	Grand Rapids		Morris	Excelsior	Grand Rapids		Morris	Excelsior	Grand Rapids		Morris	Excelsior
	Mulched	Unmulched			Mulched	Unmulched			Mulched	Unmulched		
Annapolis	9.9	6.8	8.6	8.7	13.5	12.2	9.7	12.3	54	71	53	72
Cavendish	11.4	10.9	14.2	12.0	14.9	13.9	13.1	11.9	27	40	26	36
Glooscap	11.3	10.7	11.3	10.9	12.0	11.6	9.0	9.1	25	37	36	44
Honeoye	9.6	10.4	11.1	10.8	11.5	11.1	10.8	9.9	43	56	40	66
Jewel	6.5	6.9	11.1	10.1	11.9	12.0	11.2	11.8	21	31	23	45
Kent	13.7	12.9	13.2	10.4	12.5	12.6	10.6	10.7	26	38	30	50
Lateglow	6.1	6.8	9.1	8.6	14.3	12.9	10.0	11.3	9	31	10	18
MNUS 210	11.2	11.4	11.1	11.1	16.0	14.5	12.1	14.0	7	17	15	22
LSD _{0.05}	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.5	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	12	15	12	16

¹Proportion of total yield harvested during the first 7 to 10 d of the season.

²At Grand Rapids, plots were split, with half of each plot being mulched with 10 to 15 cm of straw from November through April. Plots at Morris and Excelsior were also similarly mulched during the winter. All trials had straw mulch applied between the rows in the spring.

Table 2. Means of fruit quality evaluation scores for strawberry cultivars at Grand Rapids (by D.K.W.), Morris (by J.J.L.), and Excelsior (by J.J.L.) for 1992–97. Ratings for each trait were on a scale from 1 = very poor to 9 = outstanding.

Cultivar	Appearance			Firmness			Skin toughness		Flavor			External color	Internal color
	Grand Rapids	Morris	Excelsior	Grand Rapids	Morris	Excelsior	Morris	Excelsior	Grand Rapids	Morris	Excelsior	Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids
	Annapolis	7.4	7.4	7.9	7.1	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.6	7.3
Cavendish	7.1	6.5	7.5	7.1	7.8	7.8	6.5	7.5	7.5	7.0	7.1	7.6	8.3
Glooscap	8.0	7.4	6.6	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.8	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.8	8.2	8.6
Honeoye	7.7	6.9	7.4	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.7	8.2
Jewel	7.8	7.7	8.0	7.3	7.3	7.8	7.6	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.9	8.1
Kent	7.7	7.4	7.8	6.9	7.0	7.5	6.4	6.3	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.9	7.8
Lateglow	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.3	6.9	7.1	6.8	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.5
MNUS 210	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.6	8.2	8.0	7.3	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4
LSD _{0.05}	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6

fruit (as measured by average weight) and had yields similar to other adapted midseason or late-season cultivars commonly grown in Minnesota (Table 1). The fruit matures in the later part of the season for short-day cultivars (late June to mid-July in Minnesota), at about the same time as ‘Lateglow’ (Table 1). Subjective comparisons of the fruit characteristics of MNUS 210 with other adapted cultivars are presented in Table 2. The flavor is well balanced between sugars and acids and is slightly aromatic, sometimes reminiscent of that of

peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch]. The flesh is firm and the skin is medium to firm. Skin breakdown has been observed in warm and wet harvest seasons.

Relative to other cultivars tested in Minnesota, MNUS 210 has moderate to high resistance to the common foliar diseases, powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca macularis* Walls ex Fr.), leaf scorch (*Diplocarpon earliana* Ell. and Ev.), and leaf spot (*Mycosphaerella fragariae* Tul.) (Table 3). MNUS 210 is resistant to five eastern North American races of *P. fragariae* (Races

A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, and A-6), (Galletta et al., 1994). It is also tolerant, relative to other cultivars tested, of iron chlorosis induced by high pH soils (pH 7.5 to 8.0) at Morris, Minn., and of black root rot associated with *Rhizoctonia* sp. and *Pythium* sp., based on field observations at the HRC. (Table 3). Plants of MNUS 210 have exhibited symptoms of winter injury in some Minnesota trials with severity similar to that of ‘Annapolis’ and ‘Cavendish’ but generally greater than that of ‘Glooscap’, ‘Honeoye’, or ‘Kent’ (data not shown).