

AAFC researchers pen tell-all strawberry book

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A strawberry is a strawberry is a strawberry, right? The answer, with apologies to Gertrude Stein, is not really, according to a new book co-edited by researchers from AAFC and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Entitled *Our Strawberries*, the book describes over 170 strawberry varieties suitable for eastern Canadian conditions. The lavishly illustrated work outlines the particulars of each variety, including its pedigree and cultivation preferences.

The book joins two other titles, *Our Apples*, and *Our Plums*, as a comprehensive compendium of data gathered by horticulture experts over the past several years. Co-editor Shahrokh Kanizadeh of AAFC, who also spearheaded the other two books, says *Our Strawberries* will provide the same kind of information that has found favour with commercial and amateur growers alike.

Our Strawberries uses information collected from the AAFC experimental growing sites in L'Acadie, Quebec, between 1989 and 2005. It also includes some information gathered from the published scientific literature for comparison with locally collected data.

A companion poster and an on-line data base is available for additional information on over 1,000 strawberry cultivars from UniBase®, which contains images and pedigree and characteristics of horticultural or agronomic crops, pests, insects, animals, birds, pest control information and more. Learn more about this database at <http://www.unibase.ca>. For more information on the book and poster, including how to get a copy, visit www.cyberfruit.info/book.

