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[54] STRAWBERRY PLANT CALLED
"CARLSBAD"
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[57] ABSTRACT
'Carlsbad' is a short-day (June-bearing) cultivar similar to 'Chandler' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,262) but with larger total productivity, substantially larger early productivity, larger fruit, firmer fruit, and is a more vigorous plant.

2 Drawing Sheets

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DESCRIPTION

This invention relates to a new and distinctive short-day type cultivar designated as 'Carlsbad', which resulted from a cross performed in 1988 between the cultivar 'Irvine' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,172) and advanced selection Cal 85.218-605.

'Carlsbad' was first fruited at the University of California South Coast Research and Extension Center, near Irvine, Calif. in 1989, where it was selected, originally designated Cal 88.70-613, and propagated asexually by runners. Asexual propagules from this original source have been tested at the South Coast Research and Extension Center, the Watsonville Strawberry Research Facility, and to a limited extent in grower fields starting in 1990.

FIG. 1 shows the general flowering and fruiting characteristics of the plant;

FIG. 2 shows a typical mature leaf during late spring; and

FIG. 3 shows representative mid-season fruit.

'Carlsbad' is typical of short-day types and produces fruit over an extended period when treated appropriately in arid, subtropical climates. 'Carlsbad' differs from 'Irvine' in that 'Irvine' is a day-neutral type with essentially no photoperiodic flowering response and as compared with 'Carlsbad' is more difficult to grow. The production pattern for 'Carlsbad' is similar to that for 'Chandler', although it produces substantially greater quantities of early-season fruit. 'Carlsbad' will be of special interest for winter plantings, where 'Chandler' has been successful, and in summer plantings where 'Pajaro' has been successful.

Plants and foliage: Fruiting plants of 'Carlsbad' are larger, more erect, and more vigorous than plants of 'Chandler' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,262), and are generally similar in form to plants of 'Oso Grande' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,578). 'Carlsbad' forms branch crowns in greater quantity than 'Chandler' with similar branching to 'Oso Grande'. When propagated in the nursery, 'Carlsbad' has similar or greater runner production capacity compared with 'Chandler'. Comparative statistics for foliar characters, including leaf color, near mid-season are given for the three cultivars in Table 1 with visual comparisons of leaf color according to the Munsell color scale (Nickerson Color Fan) given in Table 5. Leaf color is distinctly lighter on the underside for 'Carlsbad'; the differential is larger than for 'Chandler'

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and similar to that for 'Oso Grande'. Individual leaflets for 'Carlsbad' are larger and somewhat more elongated than 'Chandler', and are less rounded than for 'Oso Grande'. Leaves (including petioles) are longer and much broader than for 'Chandler'. Petioles are thicker and stiffer than those of 'Chandler' and are similar to those of 'Oso Grande'. Paired stipules, borne in a median position on the petiole, appear as small, stalked, ovate to heart-shaped structures on most leaves for 'Carlsbad' and the comparison cultivars. Stipule size varies greatly both within and among individual plants for 'Carlsbad', and one or both stipules may be absent or may be abscise as the leaf matures. Leaf and petiole pubescence characters for 'Carlsbad' are similar to those for 'Oso Grande', except that tomentum on leaves are less dense. Also, leaves for 'Carlsbad' are darker than leaves of 'Chandler' and similar in color but slightly darker than those of 'Oso Grande'. Visual comparisons of fruit color according to the Munsell color scale (Nickerson Color Fan) are given in Table 5. 'Carlsbad' has flat (occasionally concave) leaves, which are easily distinguished from 'Chandler', and are similar in convexity to 'Oso Grande'.

Isozymes in leaf extracts: 'Carlsbad' has been classified for three isozyme systems using starch gel electrophoresis (Table 2): Phosphoglucosomerase (PGI), Leucine Aminopeptidase (LAP), and Phosphoglucosomutase (PGM). It is distinguishable from all other short-day cultivars released to date. For electrophoretic procedures see: J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 106:684-687.

Disease and pest reaction: 'Carlsbad' is moderately resistant to common leaf spot (*Ramularia tulasnei*) and powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca macularis*). When treated properly, it has equal or greater tolerance to two-spotted spidermites (*Tetranychus urticae*) than 'Chandler'. 'Carlsbad' is tolerant to strawberry viruses encountered in California.

TABLE 1

Foliar characteristics for 'Carlsbad', 'Chandler', and 'Oso Grande'.			
Foliar Character	Cultivar		
	'Carlsbad'	'Chandler'	'Oso Grande'
Mid-tier leaflet			
Length (mm)			
mean	90.4	82.4	77.2

TABLE 1-continued

Foliar characteristics for 'Carlsbad', 'Chandler', and 'Oso Grande'.			
Foliar Character	Cultivar		
	'Carlsbad'	'Chandler'	'Oso Grande'
range	85-97	78-94	75-80
Width (mm)			
mean	75.8	71.4	67.6
range	65-82	63-88	62-71
Mid-tier leaf			
Length (mm)			
mean	261.0	244.2	191.6
range	257-269	218-262	170-200
Width (mm)			
mean	162.4	148.0	137.2
range	148-175	132-158	130-149
Leaf color (CIELAB)*			
L*			
mean	30.0	31.4	31.9
range	27.7-31.8	27.1-33.3	29.9-33.0
a*			
mean	-6.7	-8.0	-5.3
range	-3.8--8.8	-5.2--8.2	-4.2--8.3
b*			
mean	14.2	16.0	15.5
range	10.0-17.5	12.9-21.4	12.5-20.6
# leaflets/leaf	3	3	3
Leaf convexity	flat/slight concave	concave	concave
Serrations			
number	few	many	moderate
shape	semi-round	semi-pointed	semi-round
Leaf pubescence	moderate	moderate/ sparse	moderate/ heavy
Petiole pubescence			
density	heavy	heavy	heavy
direction	perpendicular	acropetal	perpendicular

*CIELAB is the abbreviation of the international color system known as "Commission Internationale De L'Eclairage" 1978. Recommendations on uniform color spaces — color difference equations, psychometric color terms, Supplement No. 2 to CIE Publication No. 15. PARIS. 2

TABLE 2

Isozyme phenotypes for 'Carlsbad', 'Chandler', and 'Oso Grande'.			
Locus	Cultivar		
	'Carlsbad'	'Chandler'	'Oso Grande'
PGI	A2	A1	A2
LAP	B3	B3	B3
PGM	C1	C1	C2

Flowering, fruiting, fruit, and production characteristics: Comparative statistics for flower and fruit characters, including fruit color, near mid-season are given for 'Carlsbad', 'Chandler' and 'Oso Grande' in Table 3. The primary flowers for 'Carlsbad' are slightly larger than those of 'Chandler' and 'Oso Grande', whereas the sepals are substantially larger than for the comparison cultivars. Each primary flower has 5-7 petals. The calyx for 'Carlsbad' is usually even with the shoulder of the fruit, but is occasionally slightly indented and occasionally necked. The primary fruit shape for 'Carlsbad' is a very flat conic, with secondary fruit usually a blocky conic. External fruit color for 'Carlsbad', is lighter than 'Chandler', and 'Oso Grande'. and the fruit somewhat less glossy than 'Chandler'; internal color is lighter than 'Chandler' and darker than for 'Oso Grande'. Achenes vary from yellow to dark red, and are even with the fruit surface or slightly extruded.

'Carlsbad' has been tested under a variety of cultural regimes, and optimal performance is obtained when nursery treatments, pre-plant chilling regimes, plant

densities, and nutritional programs similar to those that optimize performance for 'Chandler' are used. In general, 'Carlsbad' is more adapted to early-season planting with less supplemental chilling than 'Chandler'.

When treated with appropriate planting regimes, 'Carlsbad' has larger fruit and produces greater yields than 'Chandler' or 'Oso Grande' (Table 4). 'Carlsbad' is similar to 'Chandler' and 'Oso Grande' in its production pattern, although it produces substantially more early-season fruit than either cultivar (with conventional winter planting). Commercial appearance ratings have been comparable to or better than those for 'Chandler'. Fruit of 'Carlsbad' is firmer than that for 'Chandler'; 'Carlsbad' is about as firm as 'Oso Grande'. Subjectively, 'Carlsbad' has very good flavor, somewhat less aromatic than 'Chandler', but with better acid balance and more aromatic components than 'Oso Grande'. The fruit will be outstanding for both fresh market and processing, due to its firm flesh and relatively dark internal color, and will be useful for home garden purposes.

TABLE 3

Flower and fruit characters for 'Carlsbad', 'Chandler', and 'Oso Grande'.			
Character	Cultivar		
	'Carlsbad'	'Chandler'	'Oso Grande'
# petals			
mean	6.2	6.6	5.0
range	5-7	6-8	5-5
Flower position (relative to foliage)	exposed	even/ exposed	exposed
Calyx diam. (mm)			
mean	63.8	47.7	34.1
range	56-70	45-53	27-38
Corolla diam. (mm)			
mean	40.7	39.3	32.2
range	37-44	36-46	27-41
Fruit shape			
length/width ratio	1.02	1.33	1.06
subjective	flat/conic	flat conic	blocky/conic
Calyx position	even/slight indent	even/slight neck	even/slight indent
Seed position	slight extrude	even/slight indent	even
Fruit color (CIELAB)			
external			
L*	25.4	23.6	22.4
a*	29.9	38.5	31.2
b*	16.3	14.8	17.2
internal			
L*	47.8	46.2	54.1
a*	37.9	39.1	30.4
b*	28.9	29.4	22.7

TABLE 4

Performance for selection 'Carlsbad' compared with 'Oso Grande' and 'Chandler' at the South Coast Research and Extension Center in 1991. All plants were dug from the South Coast nursery on October 1 and planted October 2 (68"/4-row beds, 23,061 plants/A, 100 g/plant = 425 Crates/A).					
	Yield To 4/1 (g/plant)	Total Yield (g/plant)	Size (g/fruit)	Appear- ance Score	Firm- ness
'Carlsbad'	510	2,308	27.2	4.2	4.7
'Chandler'	463	1,738	23.3	3.9	4.0
'Oso Grande'	530	1,675	25.0	3.8	4.9

TABLE 5

Munsell color classification for leaf and fruit characters.				
Item	Munsell		Munsell	
	Leaf Color Classes		Fruit Color Classes	
	Upper (Adaxial)	Lower (Abaxial)	External	Internal
Chandler	5GY 4/3	5GY 5/6	5R 5/13	7R 5/13
	5GY 5/6		5R 4/12	
Oso	5GY 4/3	5GY 5/6	5R 5/13	7.5R 7/9

TABLE 5-continued

Munsell color classification for leaf and fruit characters.				
Item	Munsell		Munsell	
	Leaf Color Classes		Fruit Color Classes	
	Upper (Adaxial)	Lower (Abaxial)	External	Internal
Carlsbad	5GY 3/2	7.5GY 6/8	7.5R 5/13	7.5R 6/12
	7.5GY 4/4	7.5GY 5/8	7.5R 5/13	7.5R 6/12
	5GY 4/3	7.5GY 4/7	7.5R 4/11	7.5R 5/13

We claim:

1. The new and distinct variety of strawberry plant illustrated and described and having the characteristics above enumerated.

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FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

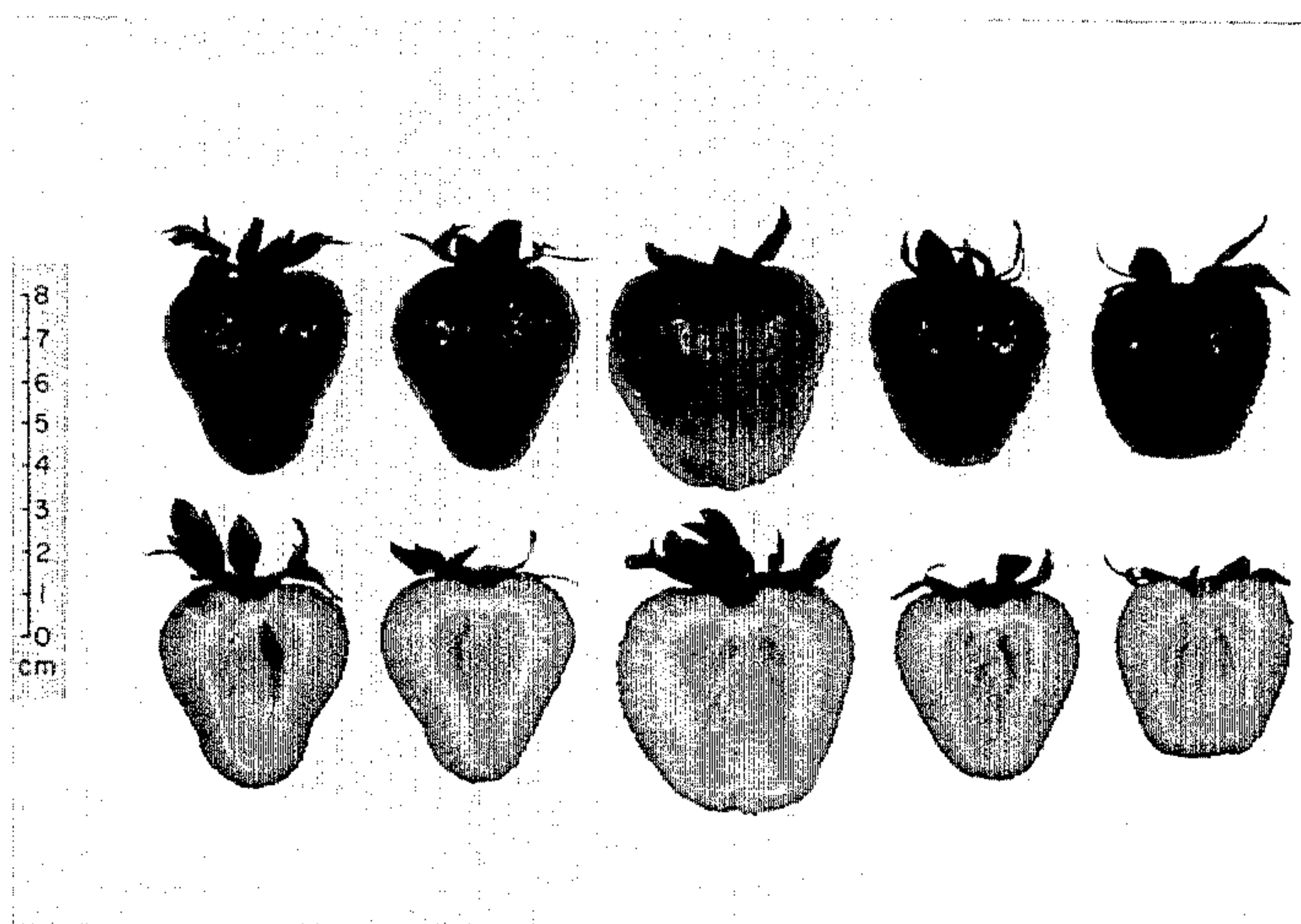


FIG. 3.