

A.B. Whitehouse¹, D.W. Simpson¹, A.W. Johnson¹, K.J. McLeary¹, A.J. Passey¹ and S.W. Troop²

¹NIAB-EMR, New Road, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6BJ, UK; ²Meiosis Ltd, Bradbourne House, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6DZ, UK.

E-mail: adam.whitehouse@emr.ac.uk, sarah.troop@meiosis.co.uk

Summary

'Malling Centenary' (formerly 'EM1764') was selected at East Malling Research, UK in 2006 and has a complex pedigree. It has a mid-early season, fruiting typically four days ahead of 'Elsanta' in the UK (Figure 1).

It produces high quality fruit with low waste resulting in reduced picking costs.

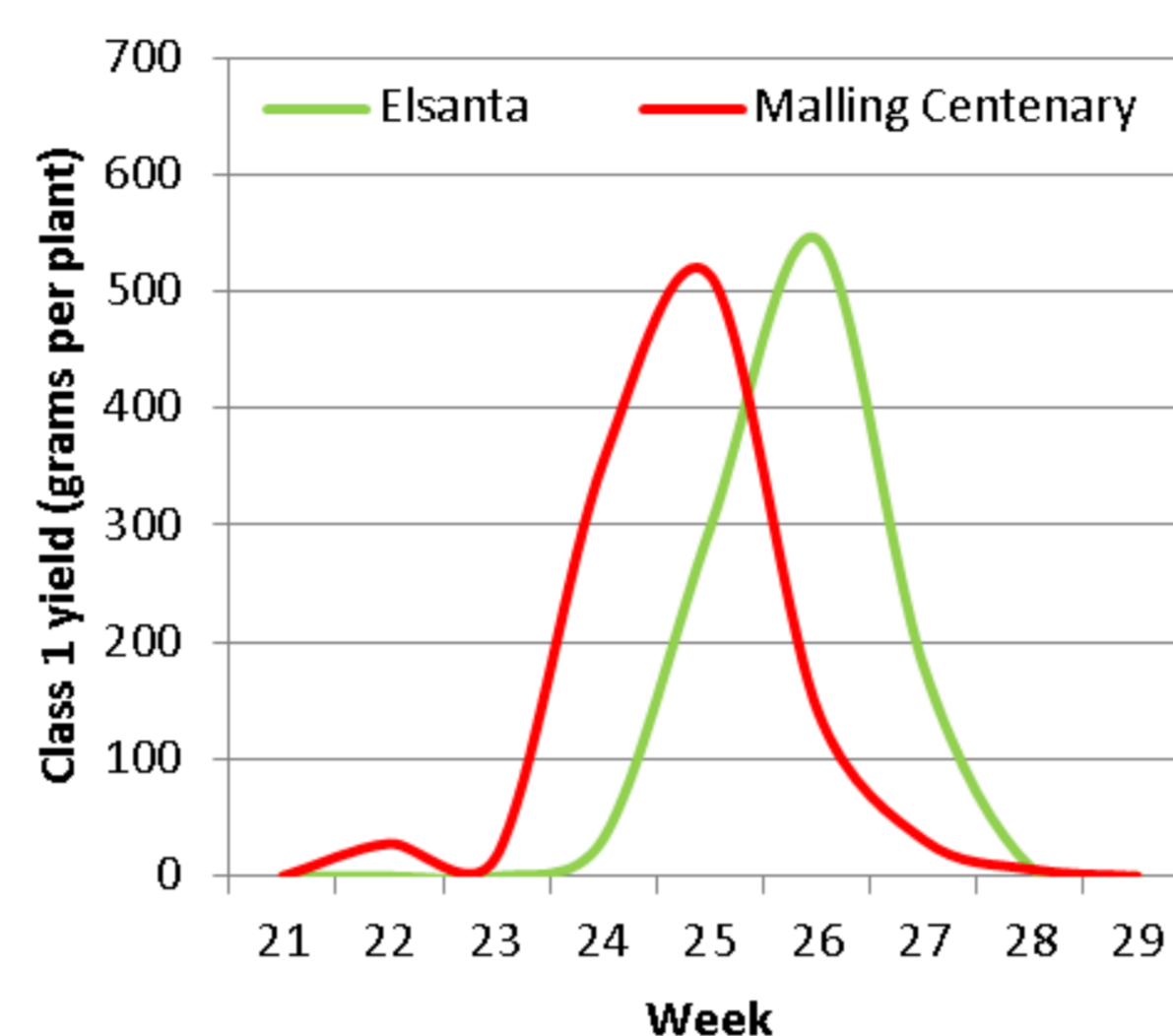


Figure 1. Crop profile of 'Malling Centenary' & 'Elsanta'. NIAB-EMR trial 2012 (misted tips, soil production)

Fruit quality

Fruit quality is judged to be excellent, with a regular conical shape, sweet flavour, good skin and flesh firmness and good shelf life.

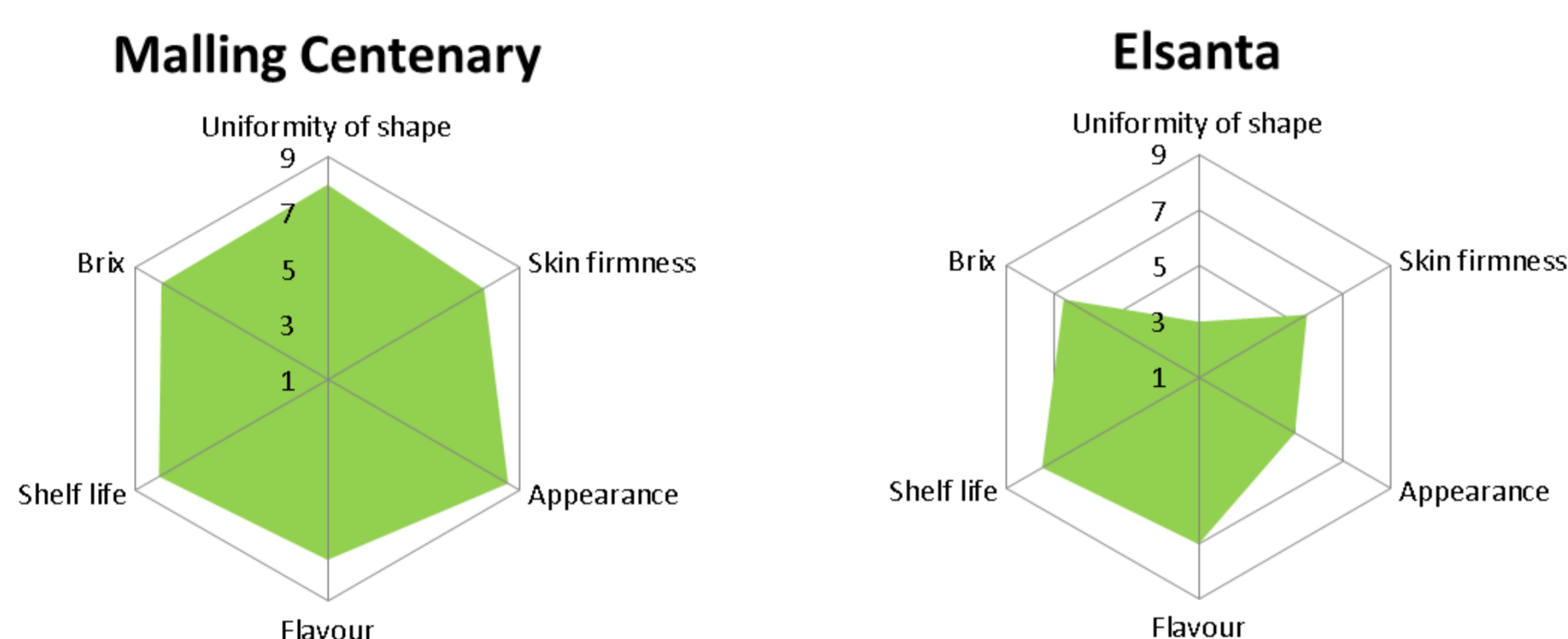


Figure 2. Mean fruit quality values from a main crop trial using tray plants grown in coir substrate under protection in the UK, where 1=poor and 9=excellent and actual Brix (°)

Source: Troop, S.W. (2012) HDC Project SF128, Final Report

Yield and % Class 1

In NW Europe, Class 1 yields (>25mm) have been moderate to high (0.6-1kg/plant) combined with a high % (>90%) of Class 1 fruit.

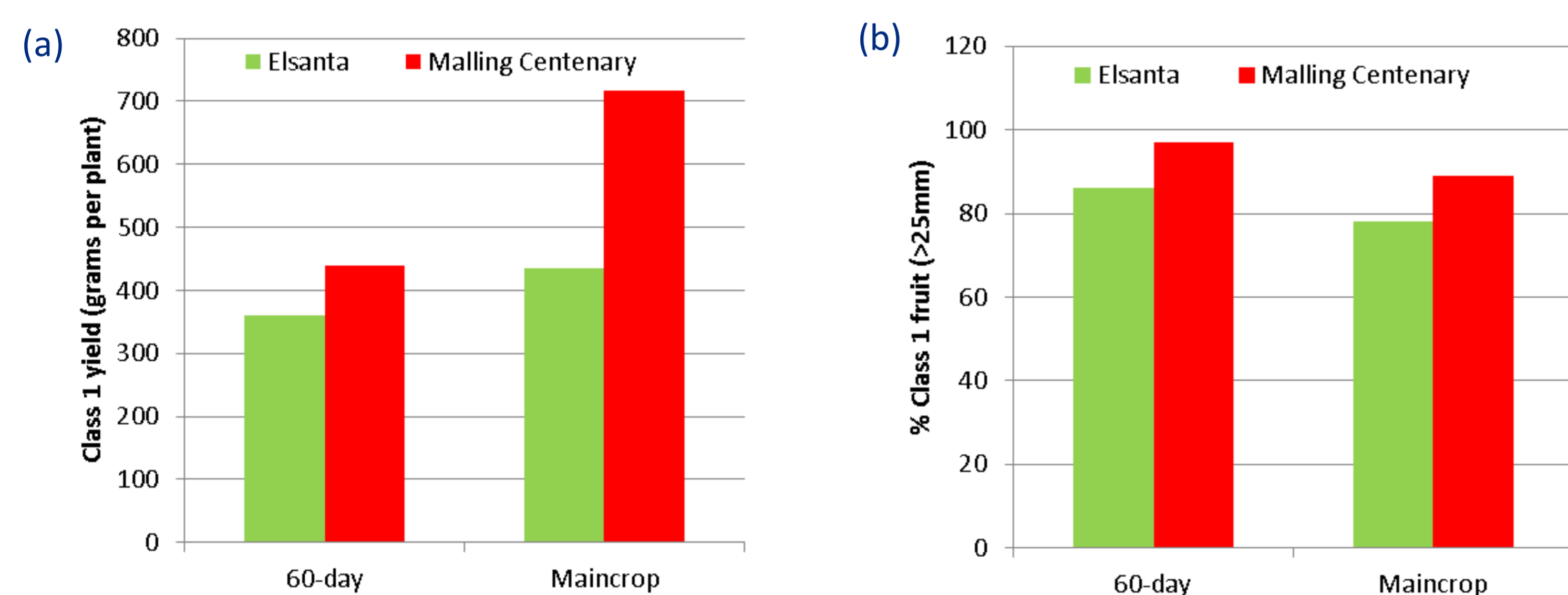


Figure 3. (a) Comparative yields (Class 1 g/plant) and (b) % Class 1 fruit (>25mm) from a programmed cropping (60-day) and main crop trial using tray plants grown in coir substrate under protection in the UK

Source: Troop, S.W. (2012) HDC Project SF128, Final Report

Acknowledgments: The development of 'Malling Centenary' was made under the direction of Tranche 1 of the East Malling Strawberry Breeding Club (BerryGardens Growers Ltd., CPM Retail Ltd., Horticultural Development Company (now AHDB), East Malling Ltd, European Strawberry Nurseries Association, Meiosis Ltd. and the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs)



Fruit size & picking costs

'Malling Centenary' typically produces 60-65% large (>35mm) berries. This trait, combined with its upright plant habit, good fruit display and high % Class 1 allows rapid harvesting and reduced picking costs (Table 1).

	Class 1 yield (t/ha)	Picking cost (£/kg)	Waste (%)
Elsanta	27.4	0.56	15
Malling Centenary	27.1	0.43	<1

Table 1. Comparative mean Class 1 yield (t/ha), picking costs (£/kg) and percentage waste from a commercial planting of 'Malling Centenary' and 'Elsanta' using tray plants grown in coir substrate under protection.

Data courtesy of Berry Gardens Grower, Kent, United Kingdom, 2015

'Malling Centenary' is protected in the EU (PVR EU 40671) & is being commercialised by Meiosis Ltd. (www.meiosis.co.uk)