The strawberry breeding program of Marche Polytechnic University (Ancona, IT) started in 1993 thanks to the contribution of the national project supported by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture. In 20 years of breeding and evaluation activities were released 4 cultivars showing interesting agronomic characteristics associated with high adaptability to open field cultivation in climatic conditions from the mid Adriatic to the Center-North of Europe and with high tolerance to limestone and clay-type soils as well as to the major strawberry diseases. The first 2 cultivars (‘Adria’ and ‘Sveva’) were released in 2003 (Capocasa et al., 2004), both showing interesting agronomic characteristics associated with high adaptability to non fumigated soil and to different culture conditions. Two new varieties (‘Romina’ and ‘Cristina’) were released in 2011 and their major traits are following described.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Thanks to the collaboration started with Hargreaves Plant (UK) and Newfruit (IT), ‘Romina’ and ‘Cristina’ are now commercially grown for late and very late production in different strawberry cultivation areas of Central and Northern EU countries. In the future they will also be introduced into the US market following their recent protection with plant patents under the US patent system.

**References**


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