

Super strawberry by genetic engineering

Researchers at Horticulture Research International, the United Kingdom, have identified the genes which control the taste, smell and colour of strawberries. As a result, it would now be possible to create super strawberries that taste sweeter, naturally. Researchers hope to develop their super strawberry through traditional methods of plant breeding guided by molecular markers that show which varieties of fruit have the key flavour genes.

Researchers also identified genes crucial to the manufacture of volatile substances that give strawberries their delicious smell. At least 280 different compounds are involved in producing the aroma, which also has a big impact on the overall taste.

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