

Development of F1-hybrid Strawberry of Seed Propagation Type Named ‘Yotsuboshi’ by Collaborative Breeding among Institutes

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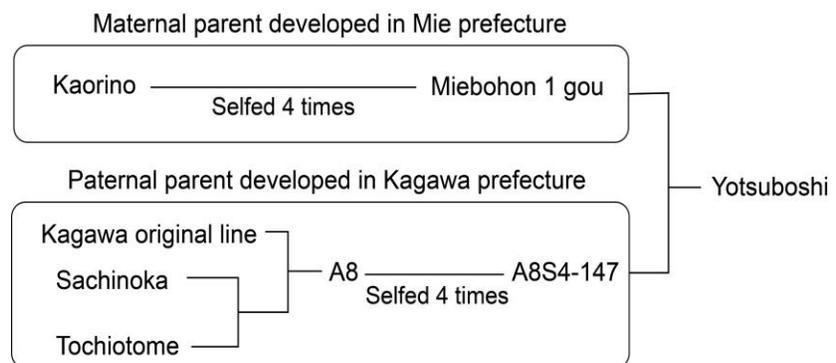
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INTRODUCTION

‘Yotsuboshi’, a seed propagating type of strawberry (*Fragaria ×ananassa* Duchesne) was developed from the collaborative breeding program including four institutes of Mie, Kagawa and Chiba prefectures and National Agriculture and Food Research Organization

(NARO) and registered as a new variety in 2017 in Japan (No.25605). It is an F1-hybrid, whose maternal (ovary) and paternal (pollen) parents are ‘Miebohon 1 gou’ developed in Mie prefecture and ‘A8S4-147’ developed in Kagawa prefecture, respectively (Fig.1).

Figure 1. Pedigree for ‘Yotsuboshi’



The behavior of flower initiation is quite unique. 'Yotsuboshi' exhibits stable extra earliness under natural conditions with a lower temperature and shorter day length, while it possesses the ever-bearing gene which results in the induction of flower initiation under long-day condition. 'Yotsuboshi' has several attractive traits, such as a clear red fruit color, excellent fruit

shape and size, high yielding ability, and superior taste with a high content of soluble solids and moderate acidity. The seeds and/or plug tray seedlings were commercially provided from 2016 for the member of the 'Research Society for Seed Propagating Type Strawberries', 'Yotsuboshi' became widely cultivated across Japan in 2019.