

UC Golden Gate Cultivar (2023 release)

This is a new day neutral cultivar from the UC Davis Strawberry breeding program. The initial breeding cross originated in 2017 and the selection 17C139P045 was made. It was subsequently tested as that number from 2019-2022. This cultivar is an early to mid-season day neutral variety with excellent post-harvest qualities.

UC Golden Gate produces equal to higher yields and % marketable fruit relative to UC's four main commercial day neutral cultivars (Monterey, Cabrillo, UCD Royal Royce, & UCD Valiant). Those four cultivars are all susceptible to Fusarium wilt whereas UC Golden Gate is resistant. It performs best in fall planted production systems, but performs equally well when harvested with 400-600 chilling hours from high elevation nurseries and planted directly with no post-harvest chill versus plants given 10-17 days post-harvest chill. Fruit is firm which supports better post-harvest keeping qualities.

UC Golden Gate is resistant to Fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum*), moderately resistant to Verticillium wilt (*Verticillium dahlia*) and Phytophthora crown rot (*Phytophthora cactorum*), and moderately susceptible to Charcoal rot (*Macrophomina phaseolina*).

Nursery productivity for UC Golden Gate is equal or superior to that of San Andreas a well-known day neutral cultivar as comparison.

Performance of UC Golden Gate in advanced trials in Santa Maria and Prunedale 2020-2022 (Yield in lbs/acre harvested March-September)

Cultivar	2020 Nipomo Conv	2020 Prunedale Conv	2021 Nipomo Conv	2021 Prunedale Conv	2022 Nipomo Conv	2022 Prunedale Conv	Across Location Yields	Across Location Fruit Size (g/fruit)
UCD_Golden_Gate	82,971	103,065	99,935	123,669	59,740	104,999	95,730	28.7
UCD_Valiant	90,853	81,841	107,279	119,864	57,602	93,437	91,813	33
UCD_Royal Royce	79,625	101,146	93,142	128,842	39,241	92,924	89,153	28.8
Monterey	64,797	73,300	70,682	97,456	69,976	152,127	88,056	29.7

Disease Reaction of UC Golden Gate in trials at UC Davis and Cal-Poly SLO 2020-2022

Cultivar	Verticillium Resistance	Phytophthora Resistance	Fusarium Resistance	Macrophomina Resistance
UCD_Golden_Gate	2	2	1	3
UCD_Royal_Royce	3	2	4	3
UCD_Valiant	2	2	4	3
Monterey	3	3	4	4

Legend Acronym	Legend	Resistance Numerical Category
R	Resistant	1
MR	Moderate Resistance	2
MS	Moderate Susceptibility	3
S	Susceptible	4

Fruit Quality Assessments in 2020-2022

Cultivar	BRIX %	Firmness (g force)
UC Golden Gate	7.8	304
UCD Royal Royce	7.6	350
UCD Valiant	7.3	297
Monterey	8.8	239



