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学位論文の題目

Developmental process and factors affecting fasciation of strawberry floral organs (イチゴ花芽の帯化とその発生要因)

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学位論文内容の要旨

Fasciation in strawberry is characterized by an enlarged and flattened receptacle, clustering of flowers, and altered inflorescence architecture. However, the developmental process of fasciated flowers and its factors remain obscure. In this study, the fasciation incidence and developmental process in the primary fruit and inflorescence architecture in 'Ai-Berry', one of the most susceptible cultivars, were evaluated and compared with other cultivars. The severity and frequency of flower and inflorescence fasciation was clearly greater in the nutrient-rich large plants of 'Ai-Berry' compared to smaller plants and those of non-susceptible cultivars, such as 'Nyoho'. The deformation of the large shoot apical meristem (SAM) into an oval shape was the initial symptom observed before and during floral transition. Such oval-shaped SAMs often differentiated two or more leaf primordia at the same time, which then developed into divided multiple vegetative SAMs before floral transition and linearly-fasciated SAMs during floral transition, respectively. It is well known that floral transition of short-day strawberries is suppressed by long-day, high temperature, and also rich nitrogen nutrition. Thus, a nutrient starvation from late August is often applied for old large nursery plants to induce early floral transition. The fasciation incidence increased by early transplanting before 20 September in 'Ai-Berry', other susceptible cultivars such as 'Benihoppe' and also non-susceptible cultivars such as 'Kaorino'. The early accelerated floral transition by the intermittent low-temperature storage clearly decreased fasciation incidence in 'Ai-Berry', but insufficiently responded and non-treated plants developed fasciation. After mid-September, when the initial symptoms of fasciation in SAMs of 'Ai-Berry' were frequently observed, the expression of FaTFL1 which is the key floral repressor gene, just began to decreased. The fluctuating temperature combined with critical day-length and rich nitrogen nutrition in September may be the most important factors of strawberry fasciation. In conclusion, fasciation of floral organs may be triggered and develop during floral transition and temperature fluctuation around boundary values between floral inhibition to induction may cause the half-finished or slowly processed floral transition. Consequently, the development of deformed inflorescence meristems and floral meristems in SAM may finally result in severe fasciation of the inflorescence and receptacle in vigorously growing strawberry plants.

論文審査結果の要旨

イチゴ花芽の帯化については、果実の肥大性に優れた近代的な品種の育成・栽培が始まって以降頻繁に観察されている。しかし、Darrow & Borthwick (1954)が報告した後は、果実の大型化に伴う付随的な現象として注目されなかった。また、日本では促成栽培が盛んで、ポット育苗が主流となっており、育苗後半に試肥中断が行われており、低頻度の発生にとどまることから栽培上大きな問題とされず、帯化した花芽の形成過程や発生要因について十分な検討がなされていない。

以上のことから、博士(農学)の学位にふさわしいと判定した。