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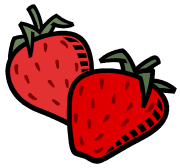
STRAWBERRY UPDATE



April 3, 2009

Field Report

Dr. Ferrin , LSU Plant Pathologist, and I spent a day looking at the strawberry crop this week. We expected to see a lot of disease coming in on the damaged berries after the past 2 rain events. Much to our surprise, there was a fairly low incidence of disease pressure in the fields.

Powdery Mildew

We did observe some spotty outbreaks of powdery mildew in most fields. The leaves showed the classic rolling and the white powdery growth could be observed on the underside of the leaves.

Dr .Ferrin suggests best control with Nova, Procure or Quintec.

Gray Mold

We also did observe gray mold (botrytis) is all fields. This disease will come in on damaged berries. It also is prevalent in high humidity situations like we have been having. As you know this disease can explode with a few foggy mornings so keep up your spray schedule. Best rated fungicides for gray mold are Captivate, Elevate, Pristine and Switch.

Angular Leaf Spot

The other disease we saw a lot of was angular leaf spot. This disease appears as tiny wet spots on the lower leaves but can move all the way up the plant. This bacterial disease usually spreads in cooler wet weather. As the temperatures rise this should correct itself.

Disease Control

I am attaching a copy of the latest disease control recommendations and ratings for strawberries.

Root Stimulator Demonstration

This past fall I put in a demonstration to look at root development of new strawberry transplants. I put in 80 plants. Forty were treated with a Green Light root stimulator mixture and 40 were planted without any treatments. Neither group was dipped with any fungicides.

The demonstration was planted on November 1, 2008. Each week 20 randomly selected plants were dug up and the roots were counted, 10 from the treated plants and 10 from the control. Plants were checked at 7, 14 and 21 days post planting and each visible root and root hair was counted.

The results of the demonstration are attached.

You can see that there was very little difference in root production the first week, 24.9 for the treated and 19.8 for the untreated. By the second week I recorded a greater response with the treated plants having

120.8 roots and the untreated having only 71.3 on average. By week 3 I had an even greater difference with the treated plants showing an average of 463.4 roots and the untreated having only 198.7, more than double the roots for the treated group.

The numbers were not evaluated for statistical significance and the results are on a very limited demonstration. Results should not be taken as a recommendation to put this into practice in a commercial operation. No data was collected on actually production through the season.

One of the limitations with root stimulators could be the difficulty of incorporating the practice into an operation that is already dipping plants with fungicides. Also there would be difficulty in drenching as I did in the demonstration.

I plan to investigate this further in the next growing season.

California Varieties

I came across this information on the California strawberry industry and thought that you might find it interesting. It lists the major growing districts, their acreage and varieties grown for the 2008 season. They reported 35,696 acres grown.

District	Acreage	Season	Varieties
Watsonville/Salinas	13,712	April - November	Albion now represents 56.2% of this district's acreage. Propriety varieties are also very prevalent, with 39.2% of the acreage in the district. Diamante is now at 1.2% and Camarosa is at 2.0%.
Santa Maria	8,430	March - July	Albion increased to 50.4% of the acreage in this district. Proprietary varieties continue to increase 19.4%. Camarosa continued to decline to 8.6%, while Ventana increased to 7.3%. Camino Real increased to 13.9% of acreage.
Oxnard	11,599	January - May (73% of acreage) and October - December (27%)	Ventana has decreased acreage to 28.1% in this district. Proprietary varieties now make up 61.5% of the acreage, with Camarosa declining to 7.0%. Albion increased to 1.4% of this district's acreage.
Orange County/ San Diego	1,781	January - May	Camarosa has declined to 35.2% of the acreage. Ventana has also declined to 36.4%, while proprietary varieties have increased to 25.1% and Albion has increased to 2.9%.
San Joaquin	273	February - June	Camarosa 6% and Chandler 96%. This district is committed primarily to the processed

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Sharpe
County Agent
Livingston Parish

Strawberry Root Development Demonstration
Planted 11/01/2008

Treated	8-Nov		15-Nov			22-Nov		
Plant #	# of roots		Plant #	# of Roots		Plant#	# of Roots	
1.2	26		1.9	41		1.3	355	
1.5	32		1.10	149		1.7	491	
2.2	11		1.1	101		2.3	504	
2.5	29		2.9	110		2.7	607	
3.2	24		2.10	120		2.8	418	
3.5	37		2.1	104		3.3	440	
4.2	14		3.9	149		3.7	613	
4.5	10		3.10	154		3.8	401	
1.6	35		4.9	91		4.3	349	
4.6	31	Avg	4.10	189	Avg	4.7	456	Avg
Total	249	24.9		1208	120.8		4634	463.4

Untreated	8-Nov		15-Nov			22-Nov		
Plant #	# of roots		Plant #	# of roots		Plant #	# of roots	
1.14	4		1.19	131		1.12	187	
1.17	10		1.20	62		1.15	325	
1.21	22		1.13	69		2.12	188	
2.14	24		2.19	74		2.15	226	
2.17	30		2.20	73		3.11	187	
3.14	18		2.11	89		3.12	90	
3.17	14		3.19	39		3.15	113	
4.14	16		3.20	22		4.11	110	
4.17	26		4.19	106		4.12	247	
4.21	34	Avg	4.20	48	Avg	4.15	314	Avg
Total	198	19.8		713	71.3		1987	198.7