

## Weekend Crop Updates: Strawberries

4/24/2021:

- Latest freeze/frost event (4/22-23): With the wind gusts on Thursday, row-covers could have caused damage to strawberry plants. Constantly moving row-covers can cause necrotic damages on plant tissue. The frost on Friday morning could have caused injury to open blossoms (necrotic receptacle). We are not expecting any frost events in the next two weeks (and most likely for the rest of spring).
- Rain is coming: The next weeks will have a few heavier rain events in some areas in the state. It would be advisable to harvest strawberries before the rain if possible. A new pathogen (*Neopestalopsis*, Neo-P) is suspected to be transmitted through rain splash mostly as well (see more below).
- Several instances of *Phytophthora* crown rot were recently detected across the state. With the warmer weather of the past weeks and suddenly increasing plant growth, often growers experience a sudden increase of wilting. Typical sign is that plants are collapsing at a stunning rate. Mostly in those fields that were not treated with Ridomil after planting. Some of the *Phytophthora* strains seem to be resistant to Ridomil or MetaStar (FRAC 4). Alternative fungicides are: Aliette and ProPhyte (FRAC P07).
- *Neopestalopsis*: The new pathogen Neo-P seems to be more or less contained in North Carolina so far. However, Neo-P seems to spread with rain mostly, and I'm afraid that we will see more instances with warmer weather and the upcoming rain events. Symptoms of Neo-P are mostly leaf spots and white-grey-black soft spots on the fruit and can resemble both, Anthracnose fruit and crown rot. Neo-P symptoms are described in [this publication](#). It is important to know which nursery is the plant source and which cultivar is grown. Infected plants need to be send to the PDIC, and either me or Sara Villani need to be informed.