

5/7/2021:

- **IMPORTANT: Cyclamen mites!**

We have found several incidences of [Cyclamen mites](#) in NC strawberry fields. Those mites are usually found in midveins of young unfolded leaves and under the calyx of emerging flower buds (in the crown area). Larger numbers can be found in any unexpanded plant tissue part! Cyclamen mites feed on flowers and make flower and fruit stunted as well as the whole appearance of the plant will be virus-like. Please see pictures of symptomatic plants below. Mostly 'Ruby June' originating from Canadian nurseries are affected so far.

The mites were confirmed today (Friday, 5/7) by the PDIC. Hannah Burrack will follow up with a portal post, but I wanted to give you some heads up: Growers that might be affected should check in their fields for symptoms and need to follow recommendations in the [Southeastern IPM Guide](#). Following miticides can be used: Agri-Mek SC (3.5 fl oz/ac) and Portal XLO (2pt/ac). Grower affected reported good results with Portal. At this stage of plant development, spray applications need to have a larger water volume and enough pressure to reach folded plant tissues.

- *Neopestalopsis* (Neo-P):

Neo-P remains a contained problem in NC. No new incidences were reported so far. Neo-P was first detected in a NC nursery and seems to be spread with rain and/or transmission on equipment or clothing. The few incidences we have seem to have it under control through consistent spray and sanitation. 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](#).

- Weather:

The next week will be more rainy, warm and humid, and growers need to be wary of spray applications for Anthracnose and Botrytis. You might check the [forecast tool](#) to see if risk for those diseases have increased

- Fertility:

A 1:2 ration of N:K is recommended at this time of the year. A 4-0-8 fertilizer would be a good solution to apply at the recommended N levels.



Figure 1: Disease symptoms of strawberry plants infected with Cyclamen mites. Typical symptoms are stunted growth, deformed flowers and fruit. Hannah Burrack will follow up with a larger portal post.