

Strawberry Weekend Updates 6/17/2021

Season 2020/21 Recap:

A more or less average strawberry season has ended, and as I analyze yield data from the several field trials we have, it occurs to me that this year was again different to most others, due to two factors:

- 1) The amount of GDDs we received in November 2020 were above average.
<https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/01/impacts-of-high-gdd-accumulation-in-november-of-2020/>
- 2) Unusual cold temperatures until end of March, begin of April 2021.

This has led to an unusual large amount of fruit early on.

This situation has led to large yields very early on in several regions in NC. We are still analyzing data and will share with you in a later update

Thankfully we didn't had a lot of rain over most of the season and most of the strawberry growers dodged a bullet at the April Spring Freeze. We have found Cyclamen mites in some Ruby Junes, and we are in contact with the Nurseries and they are fixing it. Fortunately this was not a larger problem. Same with Neopestalotiopsis, a newly emerging fungal pathogen. We didn't see wide spread disease, and the fruit growers who had it could for the most part manage it.

Season 2021/22:

While the season 2020/21 is over, we are already looking towards season 2021/22.

Growers should start ordering plants and preparing their fields in the coming months. Gina and I are updating the cultivar list currently: The list from last year can be found here:

<https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/straberry-breeding-progam/strawberries-plasticulture-considerations-varieties/>

Please be aware that because of disease outbreaks on nurseries, Liz and Rocca are not available to growers this year unfortunately.

Strawberry pre-plant meetings will be in-person and one will be online. We currently have one pre-plant meeting planned on July 26 in Western NC:

<https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/06/2021-western-nc-strawberry-pre-plant-meeting-july-26/>