

## **Crop Updates: Strawberries (9/12/2021)**

### **Pre-Plant Webinars and Recordings:**

- We only had one in-person pre-plant meeting this year in Western NC (Thank you Craig Mauney and Sara Runkel). There was a second meeting planned for Eastern NC later in the season, but it was canceled due to Covid concerns.
- Pre-Plant Resources: Some experts put together videos for strawberry pre-plant education: <https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/strawberry-youtube-channel/2021-webinars-and-presentations/>
- Very important: The Southeast Strawberry School, a joined webinar series that was developed under the lead of Amanda McWhirt (University of Arkansas) has held TWO pre-plant webinars in 2021. You find all recordings here: <https://smallfruits.org/2021/02/southeastern-strawberry-school-webinar-series/>

### **NC Strawberry Expo 2021:**

- The 2021 Southeast Strawberry Expo will be **November 10-12, 2021**, at the Delta Virginia Beach Bayfront Suites. Agenda, Information and Registration: <https://ncstrawberry.com/save-the-date>

### **Other Updates:**

- Recent floodings and heavy weather events have been disastrous for parts of Western North Carolina. Several strawberry growers and propagators were affected by flooded fields. We have written a publication to help prepare strawberry growers for tropical storms as good as possible. See here: [https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Strawberry%20Producers%20Guide\\_North%20Carolina.pdf](https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Strawberry%20Producers%20Guide_North%20Carolina.pdf)
- *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, and some of the heavy affected areas in Western North Carolina seem to have seen an uptick in Neo-P after the heavy rainfalls in the past weeks. If Neo-P comes in with planting material, it is imperative to treat the plants as soon as possible. Information can be found in here: <https://smallfruits.org/files/2020/12/2021-Strawberry-IPM-Guide.pdf>
- The NCSU Strawberry Breeding program has released their 2021 trial data. See here: <https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/06/strawberry-breeding-trials-yield-data-2021/>

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.

6/11/2021

Strawberry season is officially over in most regions. With plenty of chilling hours in Winter and a high amount of GDDs last November, we observed large flushes of bloom at the beginning of the season, leading to high yields in the last weeks of April and early May.