Mite Management on Recently Planted Plasticulture Strawberries

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Editor's note: The following segment was taken from Dr. Poling's "Strawberry Advisory on Plasticulture" October 12, 2002, Vol. 3 No. 64. The full text and additional comments can be found at: http://intra.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/berrydoc/oct12/index.htm.

Fall management of mites: Transplants and plugs can arrive with mite problems right off the bat! Be sure to carefully examine the undersides of the leaves (with 10x lens) of your new bare-root and plug plants in the field for the presence of 2-spotted spider mites in the early fall. In checking with Dr. Ken Sorensen late last week on matters related to 2-spotted spider mite control, he indicated the desirability of not starting your fall control program for mites with Brigade (pyrethroids are harmful on predators and natural enemies of 2-spotted spider mites).

Acramite - at the summer pre-plant meetings Dr. Sorensen indicated the desirability of starting a fall program with Acramite 50W (this is manufactured by Uniroyal, and was first mentioned on Berry Agent this past April 24: http://intra.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/berrydoc/april25_2.htm.

Keep detailed scouting records of mites by plant source and lot number. Continue to monitor for mites every 2 weeks in the fall, especially on the older leaves. When hot dry conditions prevail, leaves should be checked weekly. Information should be recorded on a field map so that hot spots can be watched closely. You can spot treat these hot spots.

According to the Strawberry Crop Profile Report, when 25% infestation of a 60-leaf sample occurs, chemical control may be warranted. Sample leaves by walking a V-shaped pattern in the field and stopping at 5-10 locations, where the undersides of five leaves should be examined for the presence or absence of 2-spotted spider mites.

Fig. 6. A mite "hot spot" - notice where the row has a sunken look - May 7, 2002 (Guilford Co.)

Fig. 7. Severely stunted Sweet Charlie by mites.

Originally printed in Virginia Vegetable, Small Fruit and Specialty Crops – October 2002.