

2008-2009 Strawberry High Tunnel Observation

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METHODS:

Strawberry tips were obtained from Ghesquiere Plant Farms, Ltd., and were planted in 50 cell trays containing Metro Mix 360 soilless media. Trays were placed outside for four weeks on weed mat under mini wobblers and misters during the month of August. Planting media was kept continually moist to promote root development. The resulting plugs were transplanted to the high tunnel by hand. All nutrients were supplied through the trickle irrigation. Strawberry plants were set in double rows with 12 inches between plants and rows and planted on 9/8/2008. The side's of the tunnel were opened and closed as needed for ventilation. The plant growth was monitored throughout the winter.

RESULTS:

This high tunnel plasticulutre strawberry observation is to look at extending the harvest and marketing season for strawberry farmers. Strawberries planted in the high tunnel tended to mature and ripen ahead of berries planted in the field. Harvest of the berries began on April 24th. The high tunnel had four raised beds covered with black plastic mulch. 76 plants per row with 304 plants total in the high tunnel.

Table 1: Yields from the 08-09 Strawberry High Tunnel Observation.

Marketable Fruit per plant	Marketable Pounds per Plant	Average Fruit Weight (oz.)
15	.72	.76