



2009-2010 Strawberry High Tunnel Results

Brad Bergefurd, Thom Harker, Wayne Lewis, Lynn Miller, Al Welch
OSU South Centers
1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661
740-289-2071
<http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort>



This high tunnel strawberry production evaluation looked at two cultivars (Festival and Camino Real). Both cultivars were grown under two different methods of production. The first being raised beds covered in black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation. The second treatment was compost socks filled with compost and trickle irrigation fed through the socks. With season extension becoming a bigger part of agriculture today, different methods of high tunnel production are in high demand in all of Ohio.

METHODS:

Strawberry tips 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 using a waterwheel transplanter. Sixty (60) units of 19-19-19 were applied prior to making of the raised beds. Strawberry plants were set in double rows with 12 inches between plants and rows and planted on September 18, 2009. The sides of the tunnel were opened and closed as needed for ventilation. The plant growth was monitored throughout the winter. An additional 60 units of calcium nitrate was injected through the trickle irrigations line beginning April 1, 2010.

RESULTS:

The cultivar “festival” produced the largest amount of marketable pounds per plant under both growing methods. Festival on raised beds produced .94 lbs. per plant and festival grown in the compost socks produced .92 lbs. per plant. Festival grown in the compost socks produced the most fruit per plant (25). Camino Real had the largest average fruit weight under both growing methods.

Table 1: Yields from High Tunnel Strawberry 2010.

Treatment	Marketable lbs. per Plant	Marketable Fruit per Plant	Average Fruit Weight (oz.)
Festival (Raised Bed)	.94	22	.65
Festival (Compost Sock)	.92	25	.58
Camino Real (Raised Bed)	.89	16	.87
Camino Real (Compost Sock)	.45	8	.81
LSD	None	12	.19