



Fruit ICM News

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Future Strawberry Production Systems for Ohio

Source: Richard C. Funt, Ohio State University, Columbus,

Dr. Marvin Pritts has written an excellent article about the future of strawberry production and takes a global view of issues facing researchers. High inputs of unsustainable practices of fumigation, plastic, and dependence on pesticides plus inconsistent fruit quality that is often unaffordable to low income segments of the population are a few items to be addressed (Pritts, 2001, IPM Update, Iowa State University). Dr. Pritts 'plants' the idea that a redesign of strawberry production to meet profitability and environmental needs, and not cause harm to the local community is necessary.

Currently in the eastern U.S., growers are trying new systems of production indoors as hoop-houses and greenhouses, and outside with plasticulture systems. My former colleagues at the University of Maryland have written a ten year summary of strawberry plasticulture, which was completed at the Maryland Wye Research and Education Center (on the Eastern Shore). In 1996 and 1999 the site was under several freezes in March, which froze early blooms and buds. And in mid-May of 1999 temperatures turned to 90⁰F and shut down some plants. Average planting date was early to mid September, but this area of Maryland can have more than 200 growing days per year as compared to 165 to 180 days in Ohio (Rouse, R.J., J. Bouwkamp and M. Newell, 2001. Ten year summary of strawberry plasticulture. The Maryland Orchardist. MD State Hort Society. Sept. 2001, pages 4-6).

General conclusions for strawberry plasticulture for Maryland Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland:

- Plug plants are preferred.
- Deer exclusion is a must.
- Frost protection is a must as we get blooms earlier than normal June bearing system.

- A high, well-formed bed is a must, along with good fertility and pest management spray programs.
- Row covers are needed for winter protection and for protection from cold, late winds. A real must for most seasons, heavier covers 0.9 to 1.5 ounce weight preferred.
- Plant in the ideal window for varieties grown. At the Wye this is usually early to mid-September (10th-20th) for Chandler. For Sweet Charlie, September 1. Each variety is a little different.
- Order your plants well in advance with your nursery or plug plant grower.
- Orient rows north to south rather than east to west, if possible.
- System requires both drip irrigation and overhead irrigation for success. Water management is critical, both for plant growth and frost protection.
- Plant tissue test for nitrogen and boron; fertigate according to recommendations.
- Practice good integrated pest management; stay on top of mites and gray mold.
- Make sure the fruit is ripe to the tip for local sales if you want flavor.
- Direct market your crop. Marketing is the key to success.
- Double crop or multiple crop your plastic beds.
- This is a high management-intensive system with input costs in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 per acre range. Start small, 1/4 acre or so to learn and be willing to pay tuition.
- Strawberry plasticulture is a continuous learning experience.

Recently in Ohio, more research is being done to overcome the issues listed in the Maryland report. Modifying the current strawberry plasticulture recommendations to Ohio is a challenge and will require considerable effort. However, exciting new numbered strawberry cultivars show promise as well as timing of planting plug plants.

World Trade Center Greenmarket Farmers Suffered Losses

Source: Diane Eggert, Executive Director, Farmers' Market Federation of NY, via Massachusetts Berry Notes, Sept. 2001

On Tuesday, September 11th, as the first plane hit the World Trade Center in New York City, approximately 25 market farmers had their produce displays set up at the WTC Greenmarket at Church and Liberty Streets. These market farmers come in from Long Island and upstate NY, NJ, PA and MA. The WTC Greenmarket had opened as isia; at 8 a.m. EST.

Our last report from Manhattan stated that all of the participating farmers and their helpers escaped uninjured, but most of them lost all of their vehicles, displays, produce, cash, and personal belongings. The World Trade Center market was a two-day market that is now gone for these farmers. In addition, other markets in Manhattan may remain closed because of concerns about security risks, or because some of the public areas where the greenmarkets were located have been taken over to be used for other needs related to the search and rescue and investigation. Insurance coverage for these losses is limited at best. Thus, farmers are faced with overcoming the loss of their material goods at the same time that they have lost their source of income.

The Farmers' Market Federation of NY has established a "Fund for WTC Greenmarket Farmers." Contributions and donations can be made to this fund at any time and all proceeds will be distributed to those farmers affected by the tragedy at the World Trade Center. Please make check or money order payable to: The Farmers' Market Federation of New York, 2100 Park Street, Syracuse, NY 13208. The website for the Farmers' Market Federation of New York is <http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com>.

Contribution information and possibly other means to help these farmers will be posted there.

Fruit Tree Outlook

Source: Economic Research Service <http://www.ers.gov/publications/fts/>

The Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook newsletter is now available at the above site. Of interest to Ohio fruit growers are tables displaying retail prices, grower prices, apple production by state, fruit exports, and fruit imports. Summaries of those tables appear on the following pages.

Table 1 - U.S. monthly retail prices, selected fruit 2000-2001, in dollars

Commodity	Unit	2000		2001		2000-01 Change in %	
		July	August	July	August	July	August
Red Delicious apples	Lb.	0.940	0.928	0.892	0.898	-5.1	-3.2
Peaches	Lb.	1.143	1.282	1.350	1.204	18.1	-6.1
Strawberries	12-oz pt.	1.246	1.263	1.486	1.628	19.3	28.9
Wine	liter	5.547	5.290	5.955	6.390	7.4	20.8

Table 2 - Monthly fruit prices received by growers, U.S., in dollars per pound

Commodity	2000		2001		2000-01 Change in %	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
Apples, fresh	0.162	0.195	0.144	0.169	-11.1	-13.3
Grapes, fresh	0.250	0.300	0.295	0.280	18.0	-6.7
Peaches, fresh	0.227	0.213	0.269	0.240	18.5	12.7
Pears, fresh	0.115	0.127	0.285	0.267	147.8	109.8
Strawberries, fresh	0.570	0.496	0.687	0.785	20.5	58.3

Table 3 - Apples: Total production & season-avg. price received by growers, 1998-2000, and indicated 2001 production

Selected States	Production - million pounds				Price - cents per pound		
	1998	1999	2000	2001	1998	1999	2000
California	860	896	650	696	15.3	15.8	15.0
Illinois	45	59	42	57	18.6	21.4	28.7
Indiana	54	60	45	53	24.3	23.4	24.5
Iowa	9	11	8	8	28.6	31.9	32.1
Kentucky	11	9	7	8	28.4	29.3	25.5
Michigan	1,000	1,200	850	970	8.7	8.8	9.0

Missouri	34	49	38	41	17.2	17.5	17.5
New York	1,070	1,260	995	1,050	11.4	11.4	11.7
Ohio	80	100	103	102	20.5	21.9	22.5
Pennsylvania	395	505	475	445	13.9	10.9	11.4
Virginia	280	360	350	340	11.7	10.9	9.8
Washington	6,600	5,000	5,900	4,900	11.5	17.1	12.9
West Virginia	110	140	90	115	9.0	9.3	9.2
Wisconsin	76	77	71	71	27.8	28.1	28.0

Table 4 - U.S. exports of selected fruit and fruit products in 1,000 pounds

Commodity	Marketing season	Season-to-date (through June)		Year-to-date change
		2000	2001	Percent
Apples	August -July	1,093,461	1,572,934	43.8
Grapes	May - April	35,961	37,228	3.5
Pears	July - June	336,800	370,164	9.9
Peaches and nectarines	January - December	71,886	79,420	10.5
Strawberries	January - December	86,131	78,969	-8.3
Sweet cherries	January - December	48,600	52,265	7.5
Apple juice and cider (1,000 gallons)	August - July	8,440	6,668	-21.0
Wine (1,000 gallons)	January - December	34,885	38,809	11.2
Canned peaches	June - May	2,750	1,635	-40.5
Canned pears	June - May	495	365	-26.2
Frozen strawberries	January - December	19,900	23,164	16.4

Table 4 - U.S. imports of selected fruit and fruit products in 1,000 gallons

Commodity	Marketing season	Season-to-date (through June)		Year-to-date change
		2000	2001	Percent
Apples	August -July	318,251	301,476	-5.3
Grapes	May - April	209,874	167,256	-20.3
Pears	July - June	198,996	187,601	-5.7
Peaches and nectarines	January -	79,584	101,745	27.8

	December			
Apple juice and cider (1,000 gallons)	August - July	303,305	286,122	-5.7
Wine (1,000 gallons)	January - December	54,565	56,955	4.38
Canned peaches	June - May	8,996	7,262	-19.3
Canned pears	June - May	2,590	9,054	249.5
Frozen strawberries	January - December	68,975	54,722	-20.7

Terminal Market Wholesale Fruit Prices October 3, 2001

Sources:

Chicago http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/HX_FV010.txt

Detroit http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DU_FV010.txt

Pittsburgh http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/PS_FV010.txt

	Chicago	Detroit	Pittsburgh
Apples, cartons, traypack			
No grade marks Jonathan	MI 88s 16.00-18.00 100s 16.00-18.00		
No grade marks Paula Red	MI 88s 16.00 100s 14.00-16.00		
Apples, cartons, 12 3-lb filmbags			
U.S. Fancy Empire		MI 2½" min. 10.00	PA 2¼" min. 10.00-12.00
U.S. Fancy Gala		MI 2½" min. 11.00-12.00	PA 2¼" min. 10.00-12.00
U.S. Fancy Ginger Gold		MI 2½" min. 10.00	
U.S. Fancy Golden Delicious	MI 2¼" up 11.00		PA 11.25-12.50
U.S. Fancy Jonagold			PA 2¼" min. 10.00-12.00
U.S. Fancy Paula Red	WI 2½" min. 10.50		
U.S. Fancy Jersey Mac	WI 2½" min. 10.50-11		
U.S. Fancy McIntosh		MI 2½" min. 10.00	NY 2½" min. 10.50-

			11.50
U.S. Fancy Red Delicious	MI 2¼" up 10.00		PA 11.25-12.50
U.S. Fancy Rome			MI 2½" min. 11.00
U.S. ExFancy Red Delicious		MI 2½" min. 10.00-11.00	
U.S. ExFancy Gala		MI 2½" min. 12.00-13.50	
U.S. ExFancy Gold Supreme		MI 2½" min. 10.00	
U.S. ExFancy Jonathan		MI 2½" min. 11.00-12.00	
Apples, bushel cartons, loose			
U.S. Fancy Cortland		MI 2½" up 11.50-12.00	
U.S. Fancy Gala	MI 2¼" up 12.00	MI 2¾" up 14.50-15.00 MI 3" min. 14.50-15.00 MI 2½" up 11.50-12.00	
U.S. Fancy Ginger Gold		MI 2¾" up 10.00 MI 3" min. 14.50-15.00 MI 2½" up 10.00	
U.S. Fancy Gold Supreme		MI 2¾" up 11.50-12.00 MI 3" min. 13.50-14.00	
U.S. Fancy Golden Delicious	IL 2¼" up 12.00 MI 2¼" up 13.00-14.00	MI 3" min. 10.00-11.00	
U.S. Fancy Jonagold	MI 2¼" up 12.00		
U.S. Fancy McIntosh		MI 2¾" up 11.50-12.00 MI 3" min. 11.50-12.00 MI 2½" up 10.00	
U.S. Fancy Paula Red	IL 2¼" up 12.00		
U.S. Fancy Red Delicious		MI 2¾" up 10.00-12.00 MI 2½" up 9.50-10.00	
U.S. Fancy Empire		MI 2¾" up 10.00-11.00	
Empire			PA 10.00-12.00
Gala			MI 10.50-11.00 PA 10.00-12.00
Golden Delicious			MI 10.50-11.00 PA 10.00-12.00
Jonagold			MI 10.50-11.00 PA 10.00-12.00

McIntosh			MI 10.50-11.00
Paula Red			PA 10.00-12.00
Red Delicious	MI 2¼" up 13.00		MI 10.50-11.00 PA 10.00-12.00
Rome			MI 10.50-11.00
Apples, cartons cellpack			
U.S. Fancy Paula Red 112s	WI 15.00		
U.S. Fancy McIntosh 80s 100s 120s			NY 10.00-12.00 NY 10.00-12.00 NY 10.00-12.00
U.S. ExFancy McIntosh 100s 120s		NY 15.50-16.00	NY 20.00-22.00
Blueberries, 12 1-pt cups	MI med 15.00-16.00	MI Elliots med 12.00-12.50	
Peaches, 25 lb cartons, loose Various yellow flesh varieties			NJ 2½" min 13.50-14.00

Preliminary Monthly Climatological Data for Selected Ohio Locations September 2001

Weather Station Location	Monthly Precip.	Normal Monthly Precip.	Year-to-Date Precip.	Normal Year-to-Date Precip.	Average High	Normal High	Average Low	Normal Low	Mean Temp.	Normal Mean
Akron-Canton	2.52	3.32	23.19	28.51	71.8	73.7	51.1	53.7	61.4	63.7
Cincinnati	3.13	2.88	32.46	31.86	74.5	77.9	54.7	56.6	64.6	67.3
Cleveland	3.90	3.44	23.65	27.83	70.7	73.6	52.1	54.2	61.4	63.9
Columbus	1.60	2.96	26.95	29.86	74.4	76.2	54.3	54.8	64.4	65.5
Dayton	3.88	2.54	30.69	28.16	72.7	76.5	53.0	55.1	62.9	65.8
Mansfield	2.46	3.37	23.50	30.73	70.9	73.7	50.5	54.0	60.7	63.8
Norwalk	3.43	3.16	22.38	27.75	70.8	74.5	52.1	52.1	61.5	63.3
Piketon	1.01	3.10	n.a.	33.40	76.4	76.0	50.8	54.4	63.6	65.2
Toledo	4.72	2.85	23.51	25.13	73.9	74.5	52.2	51.5	63.1	63.0
Wooster	1.36	3.24	19.19	28.39	72.9	75.5	49.9	51.4	61.4	63.5

Youngstown	2.61	3.48	20.61	28.66	71.5	72.6	49.3	51.6	60.4	62..1
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Temperatures in degrees F, Precipitation in inches

Record low temperature set: *September 2, Youngstown 41*

Table Created by Ted W. Gastier, OSU Extension from National Weather Service, OARDC & Local Data

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