



HORT MATTERS



OMAFRA SPECIALISTS IN HORTICULTURE AND SPECIALTY CROPS

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Common questions about strawberry renovation

Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist

When should I spray for leaf diseases in June-bearing fields? Although leaf diseases build up to quite noticeable levels during harvest, fungicides are not needed at renovation time. Before renovation, make a note of where leaf diseases are present. Mow leaves at renovation to reduce disease pressure. Monitor the re-growth and plan to apply a fungicide such as Captan, Maestro or Pristine or Topas to control common leaf spot and other diseases in mid-late August.

Should mites be controlled before renovation? Generally, mow first, then monitor new growth for two-spotted spider mites. However, if mite populations are high in the strawberries, beware of migration to adjacent susceptible crops. Because insecticides are not used after harvest, mowing is usually enough to reduce mite populations to a point where beneficial insects can do the rest.






Can I mix 2,4-D and Lontrel? Don't mix these two herbicides, choose the one which does the best job for weeds you have present. Lontrel works best on vetch, daisy, smartweed and thistles, 2,4-D works best on dandelions. Both will provide control of most broad-leaved weeds. Lontrel can be especially hard on strawberry plants that are drought stressed.

What is the sequence of herbicide application at renovation? Apply 2,4 D or Lontrel before mowing. Apply Sinbar after mowing to bare soil and follow the application with ¼ " water . Apply grass herbicides such as Poast or Venture L about 2 weeks after mowing, when grass re-growth is in the appropriate leaf stage (ie 2-5 leaf stage) .

What herbicide sequences should be avoided? The surfactant in Poast and Venture can make plants more susceptible to Sinbar damage. Do not apply Poast or Venture within 2 weeks of Sinbar application. Wait about 7-14 days after 2,4-D before applying Sinbar.

What is chewing holes in the strawberry leaves?

Pam Fisher—Berry Crop Specialist

Pest	Damage	Identification	Comments
Grasshoppers	Large holes, irregular in shape	Easy to identify.	Damage is not usually severe enough to reduce plant health.
Flea Beetles	Numerous small holes in leaf, beetles easily detected	Small black beetles, good at jumping. Black or black with red markings on thorax. 	This pest is not a problem if malathion is used for leafhopper control.
Strawberry root worm	Numerous small holes in leaf, beetles active at night. 	Small oval beetle, about 1/8 inch, brown with 4 darker patches, or black, found at night.  Photo credit: http://wildblueberries.maine.edu/FactSheets/199.htm	This pest is potentially very serious because larvae also feed on roots. However, it rarely shows up where insecticides are used for leafhopper or other pest control.
Black vine weevil	Semi-circular notching from leaf edges. 	Black beetles with large, prominent snout. 	Use barrier fences and pitfall traps to prevent migration to new plantings. Consider using beneficial nematodes in late summer or early fall to control larvae in soil. Adults are difficult to control. Still no insecticides registered.

Choosing the Right Cover Crop

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist

Cover crops are a common soil management practice for many horticultural growers. There are lots of good reasons to use cover crops but it is often hard to put a dollar value on the return from growing cover crops. Cover crops are part of a system of soil maintenance – particularly important on the lighter, lower organic matter soils.

Know what you want to achieve with a cover crop and select the best one for the job!

Function of the cover crop	Best choices for cover crops
Nitrogen production	Red clover, peas, vetch
Nitrogen scavenging	Fall uptake - Oilseed radish and other brassicas, oats Winter/spring uptake – rye, winter wheat
Weed suppression	Oilseed radish and other brassicas, winter rye Organic growers also like buckwheat for this
Nematode suppression	<i>Note: variety and nematode specific!</i> Cutlass Mustard Sudans/Sorghums - Sordan 79, Trudan 8 Pearl Millet – CFPM 101 Marigold – Crackerjack, Creole Oilseed radish – Adagio, Colonel
Soil structure building	Oats, overwintered winter rye
Compaction busting	Alfalfa, sweet clover
Biomass return to soil	Fall – oats, oilseed radish Summer – millets, sorghum, sudan
Erosion protection i.e. wind, water	Winter rye, winter wheat, ryegrass (well established)

For more information on cover crops see the OMAFRA website and the SARE book *Managing Cover Crop Profitably*.