Strawberry Plasticulture Basics
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High Density Strawberry Production Systems

• Components:
  - late summer planted
  - raised beds
  - black plastic mulch
  - trickle irrigation
  - high density planting
  • double row
  • 12’ spacing
  - FRC
High Density Strawberry Production Systems

• Advantages:
  - High productivity
  - High quality
  - High value – early crop
  - Short production cycle
  - Decreased disease and weed pressure
  - Decreased labor costs
  - Double cropping potential
  - Annual crop rotation
Limitations:

- Higher establishment costs
- Higher risk – limited growth period
- Location
- Replant annually?
- Equipment needed
- Trickle required
- Increased chance of frost damage
Soil Preparation:

- Soil prep
  - fumigate
  - subsoil
  - plow
  - disk
  - rototill
  - make bed

- Fertilization
  - soil test
  - 60lbs. N/A incorporated
  - 10-10-10/AmmN
  - Fertigate 30lbs
  - N/A in Spring
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## Plug/Dormant/Early CV Summary

1998 Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar/Selection</th>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Harvest Date</th>
<th>Prim BWt</th>
<th>Prim Yield</th>
<th>Total BWt</th>
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No consistent differences

Varietal specific

Lower yield = Larger fruit

Lower yield = Earlier fruit

Grower preference
Plug/Dormant Comparison

Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

- Dormant advantages
  - Cost
  - Unlimited CVs
  - Availability
  - Planting dates
  - Vigorous
  - Dormant

- Dormant drawbacks
  - Early season planting
  - Planting difficulty
  - Viability/Variable
  - Dormant
  - Flower bud removal
Plug/Dormant Comparison

**Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge**

- **Plug advantages**
  - Late season planting
  - Ease of planting
  - Actively growing
  - Vigorous
  - “Clean”

- **Plug drawbacks**
  - Cost
  - Limited CVs
  - Availability
  - Planting dates
Strawberry Plasticulture Basics

correct depth  too deep  too shallow  planting hole too shallow
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‘Chandler’
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‘Allstar’
Strawberry Plasticulture Basics

'Jewel'
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Floating Row Covers:

- Continued growth in fall
  - branch crowns and FBI = increased yield
- Winter protection (low temp and wind)
- Early spring growth = early fruit = highest price
- Frost protection (+4F)
- Pest exclusion
  - TPB and Strawberry Clipper?
  - Deer!
  - Hail
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Double Cropping Summary:

- Adds to profitability
  - Two sprays of gramoxone
  - Timing critical
  - Second year of strawberries?
- Tomatoes – must be planted early
- Peppers – proper nutrition critical – heat?
- Muskmelons – careful with irrigation – split
- Pumpkins – planting date and disease control