

Strawberry Disease Forecast 2023

Control of Grey Mold (*Botrytis*)



Control Needed Due to High Fruit Rot Issues in 2022



Grey mold (*Botrytis*) was quite common in strawberry fields in 2022 as wet weather during flowering was favourable for disease infection. Customers usually complain of off-flavored fruit if berries infected with grey mold are eaten. This disease affects blossoms and blossom stalks of green or ripe fruit. Infection usually starts in the blossom and may destroy the entire blossom stalk. The blossom infection can enter a dormant period in the calyx or hull, then become reactivated to cause fruit rot.

Figure 1. Grey mold on strawberries

Symptoms & Environmental Conditions for Infection

The rot is soft and light brown in color. The fungus may spread to other blossoms and berries through direct contact, or by spores that are blown or splashed. A fine grey powdery growth develops and infects blossoms, fruit stalks, fruit and other plant parts (figure 1). Fruit rot and grey mold may appear on the picked fruit for one or two days.

Grey mold is favoured by shade or dense foliage in the bed and extended periods of excessive moisture. The likelihood of infection is increased by cool spring and summer temperatures, high humidity and natural rainfall. Fruit rot can also be favoured by factors that produce soft fruit, such as high application of nitrogen during fruiting.

Control

Typically need to control *botrytis* the year after since the spores overwinter on plant residue (refer to management tables 1, and 2). **Critical timing is to control at bloom.** Continue on a 7 to 14 day schedule. Use the higher rate and/or shorter intervals when disease pressure is high (i.e. moist field conditions).

General ratings of effectiveness of fungicides on *botrytis* (from OMFRA efficacy ratings) are:

Very Effective - Pristine, Luna, Fontelis, Miravis Prime, Switch 62.5WG, Buton, Scala, Impala, Elevate
Effective - Supra Captan.

Table 1: Strawberry Grey Mold (*Botrytis*) Management Chart

Trade Name	Fung. Group	Trade Name	Fung. Group
Senator 50SC	1	Merivon	7,11
/Thief 50SC	1		
Cantus WDG	7	Kenja 400SC	7

Pristine WG	7,11	Fontelis	7
Luna Tranquility	7,9	Miravis Prime	7,12
Luna Sensation	7,11	Switch 62.5WG /Button	9,12 9,12
Sercadis	7	Scala SC /Impala	9 9

Table 2: Strawberry Grey Mold (*Botrytis*) Management Chart

Trade Name	Fung. Group	Trade Name	Fung. Group
Intuity	11	Serifel	BM2
Elevate 50WDG	17	SerenadeOPTI	BM2
Diplomat 5SC	19	Actinovate SP	BM2
Timorex Gold (tea tree oil)	46	Maestro 80WSP	M4
ProBLAD	BM1	Supra Captan 80WSP	M4
Double Nickel	BM2	Folpan 80WDG	M4
Regalia Maxx	P5	Botector	NC
OxiDate	NC		

Information provided in the above tables is general information only.

Always refer to pesticide label for usage and rates.

Contact Us

This fact sheet was developed by Anthony Mintenko, Manitoba Agriculture Fruit Crop Specialist

For more information, contact the department:

Online: www.manitoba.ca/agriculture

Email: crops@gov.mb.ca

Phone: 1-844-769-6224