Issue 1 – April 30, 2025

Fruit Crop Report

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Provincial Overview

Welcome to the first fruit crop report of 2025. Fruit trees have started emerging from dormancy. Uncovering of strawberry fields of straw mulch has begun. Expect bulk of straw mulch to be removed from strawberry fields the first and second week of May, weather permitting.

Commercial Fruit Crops- Timely Topics

Strawberries

When to Remove Straw Mulch

Remove mulch in the spring as new growth begins and new leaves become a light-yellow colour. This normally will occur between late April and early May for most locations, once the risk of hard frosts has passed, greater than -5°C typically.

Remove excess straw from the rows and aisles with a side delivery rake or specialty rake. Rotary mowers are also an excellent way of removing straw. The rotating blades place the straw into the aisles. Two passes over the rows will do a complete job.

Partial mulch removal delays development without harming growth. This practice can be used to delay bloom development and avert early frost damage to mature blooms.

Moving the straw mulch between the rows in the spring helps keep berries clean, conserves moisture, suppresses weeds and provides a pleasant picking area (source Commercial Strawberry Production on the Prairies).

Harvesting Year Strawberries Spring Weed Control Options (After Straw Mulch Removal)

Herbicides must be applied at the recommended rates to avoid injury. Cultivars vary in their sensitivity to herbicides at certain stages of the plant growth cycle. Newly planted strawberries and ones with active runners are especially sensitive to herbicides. Crop tolerance increases in late summer and fall. Light soils (sandy soils) require lower rates than heavy soils for comparable levels of weed control. Strawberries growing on soils low in organic matter are especially prone to herbicide injury. Lower rates of herbicides should be used on fields containing less than 2% organic matter. Do not exceed maximum recommended annual application rates or overlap areas during application. See Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Strawberry - Weed Control

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Most herbicides registered for use on strawberries are pre-emergent types, meaning they are applied before weed seedlings emerge and form a “kill layer” at the surface to prevent seedling emergence (see table 1).

This is a guide only, confirm on product label for information on rate, preharvest interval, restricted entry interval, efficacy, and comments. See Pesticide Label Search - Health Canada

Table 1: Harvesting Year Strawberries Spring Weed Control Herbicides (After Straw Mulch Removal)

Product & Chem Group	Weeds Controlled	Pre-harvest Interval (PHI)	Pre or Post Emergent Weed Control	Comments
Devrinol 2-XT Group 15	Broadleaf and grassy	0 day	Pre-emergent	Apply once per season before weeds emerge or following cultivation. Incorporation by rainfall, irrigation or cultivation is essential.
Sinbar WDG Group 5	Broadleaf and grassy	0 day	Pre-emergent	Use low rate where Sinbar was used in the fall. Use lower rate on sandy soils low in organic matter. Use lower rate on sensitive varieties such as, Annapolis, Cavendish, Kent and Mira or varieties which have not been adequately tested for SINBAR sensitivity since they may be severely injured.
Dual II Magnum/ Komodo/ Metallica Group 15	Broadleaf and grassy	30 days	Pre-emergent	After mulch removal but before weed emergence.
Venture L Group 1	Grassy	30 days	Post-emergent	Treat in the spring before bloom or after renovation. Apply to grassy weeds/ volunteer cereals at 2-5 leaf stage. Wait at least 14 days after application before applying Sinbar.
Poast Ultra Group 1	Grassy Systemic	25 days	Post-emergent	Treat in the spring before bloom or after renovation. Apply to grassy weeds/ volunteer cereals at 2-5 leaf stage. Wait at least 4 days after application before applying Sinbar.

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Horticultural Vinegar/ Serene Group NC	Non-selective Contact (grassy and broadleaf)	0 day	Post-emergent	Spot-spray or hooded or shrouded band sprayers between rows. Do not allow spray to contact any green plant parts of desirable plants or apply directly over the top or crop injury can occur. More effective on annual weeds than perennials , especially when newly emerged.
Glyphosate (various product names, i.e. Roundup, etc.) Group 9	Non-selective systemic (grassy and broadleaf)	30 days	Post-emergent	Shrouded spot-sprayer/ banded between rows. Do not allow spray to contact any green plant parts of desirable plants or apply directly over the top or crop injury can occur. Drift can result in strawberry plant mortality.
The product label is a legal document and label instructions must be followed. The information provided is general information only.				

New and Updated Berry Insecticides and Fungicides for 2025

This is a guide only, confirm on product label for information on rate, preharvest interval, restricted entry interval, efficacy, and comments. See Pesticide Label Search - Health Canada (see tables 2,3).

Article and tables by Erica Pate, Fruit Crops Specialist (Berries) with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) from April 8, 2025 ONfruit Newsletter https://onfruit.ca/2025/04/08/berry-crop-protection-update/

Table 2: New and Updated Berry Insecticides & Miticides for 2025

Product & Group#	Fruit Crop	Pest	Remarks
Malathion 85 E Group 1B	strawberry	Tarnish plant bug (Lygus bug)	Rate changed to 880 mL/ha
Danitol Group 3	raspberry	Raspberry fruitworm	PHI now 15 days
Magister Group 21	strawberry	Cyclamen Mite	Rate: 2.63 L/ha. Use with a surfactant at 0.25% where permitted. Avoid application during bloom.
Spear T Group 32	raspberry	Spotted wing drosophila **(suppression only)**	Rate is 9.4-28 L/ha. Use with a spreader/sticker or non-ionic surfactant at 0.125% where permitted.
BioTitan WP Group NC	strawberry	Tarnished plant bug (**reduction in numbers only**)	Do not tank-mix with a fungicide.

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Suffoil X *(80% mineral oil)* Group NC	strawberry	Two-spotted spider mite	New rate: 10 L/1000 L water
To search for products for use on berry crops visit Ontario Crop Protection Hub https://live-oncrops.cloud.contensis.com/control-solutions/fruit-pest-control Confirm on label if registered for use in Manitoba, no restrictions on regions (i.e. BC only, etc.). The product label is a legal document and label instructions must be followed. The information provided in the protection hub application is general information only.			

Table 3: New and Updated Berry Fungicides for 2025

Product & Group#	Fruit Crop	Pest	Remarks
Cevya Group 3	strawberry	Botrytis grey mould (**suppression only**)	PHI = 0 day
Inspire Super Group 3+9	strawberry	Anthracnose (**suppression only**); Botrytis grey mould	Do not make more than 3 applications of cyprodonil-containing products on strawberries per year (Inspire Super, Switch)
Flint Extra Group 11	strawberry	Powdery mildew	Flint Extra is replacing Flint. Do not tank-mix or make sequential applications with Exirel.
Captan 480 SC Group M	strawberry	Botrytis grey mould, common leaf spot	Suspension formulation of captan. PHI = 8 days
	raspberry	Botrytis grey mould, spur blight	
EcoSwing Group BM1	Raspberry Strawberry	Botrytis grey mould (**Partial suppression only**)	PHI = 0 days
ProBLAD Biofungicide Group BM1	Raspberry	Botrytis grey mould	PHI = 0 days
Minuet Group BM2	Strawberry	Black Root Rot **(suppression only)**	Can be applied via surface applications, transplant drench, or drip irrigation
To search for products for use on berry crops visit Ontario Crop Protection Hub https://live-oncrops.cloud.contensis.com/control-solutions/fruit-pest-control Confirm on label if registered for use in Manitoba, no restrictions on regions (i.e. BC only). The product label is a legal document and label instructions must be followed. The information provided in the protection hub application is general information only.			

High Tunnel Strawberry Trial Update

Early season strawberry production in a high tunnel trial using June-bearing Cabot strawberries will be repeated in 2025. This will start in early May with the transplanting of bare-root strawberry plants into standard eavestroughs on an A-frame structure to maximize planting density within the high tunnel (see figure 1).

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Figure 1: High tunnel strawberries on A-frame structure.

A high tunnel is defined as a semi-permanent structure that appears similar to a greenhouse with the frame covered in plastic. However, a high tunnel has no permanent heat and no powered ventilation system. The vegetable and /or fruit crops can be grown directly in the ground or in containers within the high tunnel. A high tunnel is normally high and wide enough to allow the entry of small to mid-sized tractors.

The Manitoba Agriculture high tunnel was built in 2014 from component parts sourced in Manitoba and built on site. There are high tunnels available commercially as kits that include all the required components. For our purposes, we wanted to test the viability of designing and building a "made in Manitoba high tunnel" from scratch and evaluate the structure's longevity and the cost effectiveness of the design. For detailed information on building this high tunnel see High Tunnel Design and Set up or watch the video at High Tunnels Their Design and Construction. For details via video High Tunnel Preparation, Operation & Crop Production.

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