

# Issue 11 – December 4, 2024

## Fruit Crop Report



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### Provincial Overview

The majority of strawberry growers have completed applying straw mulch to strawberry fields for winter protection. For more information on applying straw mulch, see [When to Apply Straw Mulch on Strawberries](#) and [Importance of Straw Mulch on Strawberries](#).

This is the last report for the 2024 field season. Thank you for completing the fruit crop report survey and for the positive feedback. Reports will begin again in the spring of 2025.

### Commercial Fruit Crops- Timely Topics for 2025 Field Season

#### Strategies for Prevention and Control of Anthracnose in Strawberries

This disease has not been as common in Manitoba compared to other strawberry producing regions like southern Ontario, Nova Scotia, and many USA regions. Typically, it is more of an issue in day-neutral strawberries and some susceptible June-bearing cultivars (i.e. Kent, Annapolis, Mira, Cavendish).

#### Symptoms



Figure 1:  
Anthracnose on  
strawberry fruit.

This disease can affect flower buds, stems and berries. Symptoms on berries are the appearance of sunken dark lesions (see figure 1), while on flower buds they dry-up and turn brown (figure 2). A slimy pink spore mass may form on the berry lesion. If the berry forms a fuzzy white/grey spore mass then the disease is grey mold/ botrytis not anthracnose.



Figure 2: Anthracnose on  
strawberry fruit buds.

#### Cultural Controls

Cultural control measures will not control anthracnose but are an important part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program that will assist in reducing a favourable environment for disease development as much as possible.

Report compiled by Anthony Mintenko  
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## IPM Management Steps to Follow for Anthracnose Suppression

- Avoid over-fertilizing with nitrogen as it can cause an overly lush plant canopy which will take longer to dry off after rain or heavy dew. Conduct annual soil tests to determine proper levels of nitrogen and other nutrients required for the field.
- Promote good air flow across the field for good drying conditions.
- Apply before rain events to ensure that fungicide is covering the foliage before the rain event.
- Removal of infected berries from the field will greatly reduce amount of anthracnose inoculum present, although usually not practical for very large fields.
- Harvest frequently.
- Avoid picking or working in the field when plants are wet, in order to slow the spread of inoculum from plant to plant.
- Work machinery from newer fields to older fields to reduce spread and introduction of disease into new, clean fields.
- Adequate straw mulch cover within rows and between rows will decrease splashing by rain which can spread inoculum.
- Use drip irrigation instead of overhead sprinkler irrigation.

### Chemical Controls

Anthracnose in Ontario and other strawberry producing regions has been found to be resistant to all group 11 fungicides. **Avoid using group 11 fungicides Cabrio, Evito, Pristine, Merivon, Quadris and Luna to control anthracnose.**

**If you had anthracnose in your field the year before here are some guidelines for control.**

### Guidelines for organizing an anthracnose spray program for June bearing strawberries

From Perennia.ca - Nova Scotia Food Development Agency

Strawberry Plant Stage	Recommended Control Application Details
Pre-bloom	Bravo (gp* M)- 2 applications (max 3 applications/ year), primarily for control of Botrytis
Bloom	Captan (gp M) <b>or</b> Folpan gp (M) (max apps 6/ year), Miravis Prime (gps7&12) (max 3 applications /year)
Harvest	Rotate through Miravis Prime (gps 7&12), Switch (gps 9&12) and Diplomat (gp 19) (max 3 applications /year)
Cultivars that are more susceptible: Annapolis, Cavendish, Kent, Mira	

\*gp:insecticide group

### References

Guide to Fruit Crop Production, Manitoba Agriculture, 2007.

[Perennia- Guidelines-for-Controlling-Anthracnose-on-Strawberry-.pdf](#)

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[PennState-Strategies for Effective Management of Botrytis and Anthracnose Fruit Rot in Strawberries](#)

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