

Ground Covering for Strawberries

Strawberries

Strawberries like a well-drained, reasonably fertile soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. They are grown in a variety of climates and soil conditions around the world, with farmers manipulating the growing conditions (with fertilizer, irrigation, protection from weather, etc.) to get as close to ideal conditions as they can. Farmers can use row covers for frost protection and often use them in unison with an overhead sprinkler system, but farmers can also use row covers or ground covers to encourage plants to grow before they go dormant.

Farmers can use row covers to encourage plants to grow before they go dormant, or stop actively growing, in December. Bags of rocks are used to hold the covers in place.



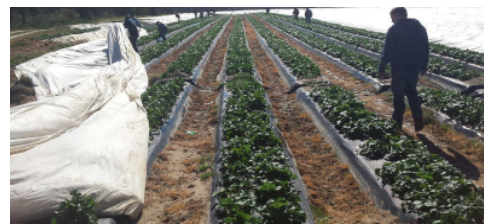
Dormant Plants & Row Covers

Dormant plants (December-February) are not usually affected by extreme temperatures because there are few blooms. However, if temperatures drop below 15 degrees Fahrenheit protection is necessary as these temperatures can damage the crowns of the plants. Row covers are used for

this, and not all growers protect at this stage. Snowfall and freezing rain are not a problem for strawberry plants in the dormant stage (after all, frost protection with irrigation creates ice), and snow provides a protective blanket. These precipitation events usually do not occur at the times of critical temperatures and growth stage.

The Take Away

Farmers have a use for ground covering or row covers in many instances. Whether it be to increase plant growth or offer some sort of frost protection in unison with a overhead sprinkler system. Row covers offer a lot of protection and help to the growth of strawberry plants. Farmers have to take into consideration the weight of their row covers and the number of layers.



Credits

https://www.ncfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Book_From-Farm-to-School-Crops-of-NC_-A-Visit-to-the-Strawberry-Patch-.pdf Book Link - photos/text features and some information taken from this book