

1959

EC59-1829 Plant Diseases : Strawberry Fruit Rots

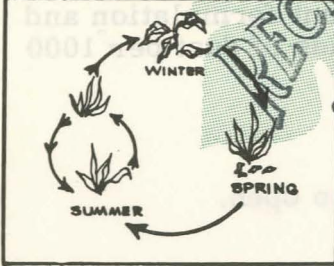
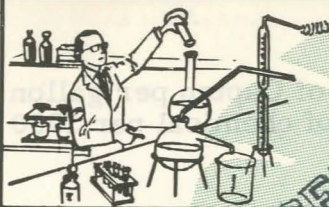
John L. Weihing

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PLANT DISEASES

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Strawberry Fruit Rots

SYMPTOMS

The strawberry fruit becomes soft and visibly rotten. The rot may involve only a small portion or the entire fruit. The rots may vary in color but usually are brown or black. In some cases, the rot may be a rather dry rot and the tissues somewhat leathery.

CAUSE

There are several fungus organisms which commonly live in the soil that can cause fruit rot. Fruit rots occur when there is considerable cool, wet weather during fruit development and ripening. The berries that touch the ground are the most likely to become infected.

CONTROL

1. Provide some way by which the strawberries do not touch the ground, such as a mulch of straw or the use of black polyetheleyne plastic.
2. Avoid the development of excessive foliage through proper plant thinning and not over-fertilizing.
3. The application of Captan as a spray or dust is suggested for strawberry rot prevention when cultural practices fail to give satisfactory control.

As a spray add 1 tablespoon of Captan per gallon and apply at least 1/2 pound of chemical per 1000 sq. ft. of strawberry bed.

As a dust use a 7 1/2 per cent formulation and apply at the rate of 3/4 pounds of dust per 1000 sq. ft. of strawberry bed.

Time of applications:

1. When first blossoms start to open.
2. Just before full bloom.
3. Immediately after petal fall.
4. (If wet, rainy weather continues) Just before or during picking.

