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EXTENSION

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Strawberry Plasticulture: Production Basics

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Strawberry Plasticulture Basics



High Density Strawberry Production System

- **Components:**
 - late summer planted
 - raised beds
 - black plastic mulch
 - trickle irrigation
 - high density planting
 - double row
 - 12' spacing
 - FRC

Weakest link!

High Density Strawberry Production Systems

- **Advantages:**
 - **High productivity**
 - **High quality**
 - **High value – early crop**
 - **Short production cycle**
 - **Decreased disease and weed pressure**
 - **Decreased labor costs**
 - **Double cropping potential**
 - **Annual crop rotation**

Limitations:

- Higher establishment costs
- Higher risk
 - limited fall growth period
 - Winter damage risk
 - Increased chance of frost damage
- Location
- Replant annually?
- Equipment needed
- Trickle required

Soil Preparation:

- **Soil prep**
 - fumigate?
 - subsoil
 - plow
 - disk
 - rototill
 - make bed
- **Fertilization**
 - soil test
 - 60lbs. N/A
 - incorporated -
 - 10-10-10/AmmN
 - Fertigate 30lbsN/A
 - in Spring

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Strawberry Types

- June-Bearers
 - spring crop
- Day-Neutrals
 - spring and fall crop
- Ever-Bearers
 - no longer recommended

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Plug/Dormant/Early CV Summary

1998 Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

Cultivar/ Selection	Plant Type	Harvest Date	Prim BWt	Prim Yield	Total BWt	Total Yield
Allstar	D	5/07	31.0	30	15.5	8450
Allstar	P	5/18	21.5	375	17.1	11770
Jewel	D	5/21	22.8	270	14.0	13830
Jewel	P	5/13	23.8	11	22.1	9970
Seneca	D	5/18	26.0	100	20.5	14980
Seneca	P	5/18	21.1	1090	19.2	11300
Chandler	D	5/18	12.2	64	15.7	13610
Chandler	P	5/18	18.5	89	18.0	22160

Plug/Dormant Summary

Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

-  **No consistent differences**
-  **Varietal specific**
-  **Lower yield = Larger fruit**
-  **Lower yield = Earlier fruit**
-  **Grower preference**

Plug/Dormant Comparison

Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

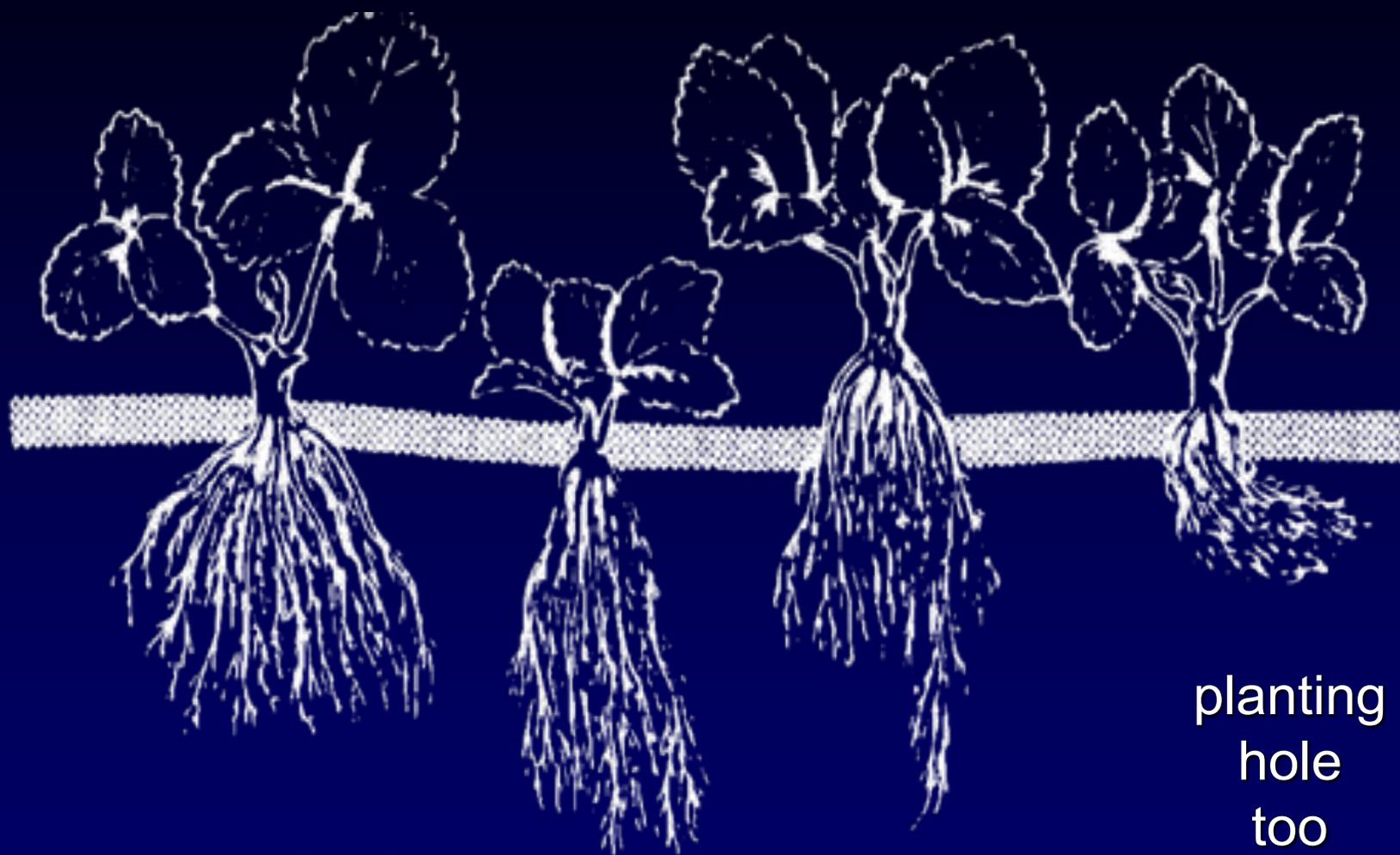
- **Dormant advantages**
 - **Cost**
 - **Unlimited CVs**
 - **Availability**
 - **Planting dates**
 - **Vigorous**
 - **Dormant**
- **Dormant drawbacks**
 - **Early season planting**
 - **Planting difficulty**
 - **Viability/Variable**
 - **Dormant**
 - **Flower bud removal**

Plug/Dormant Comparison

Strawberry Plasticulture Update – Cream Ridge

- **Plug advantages**
 - Late season planting
 - Ease of planting
 - Actively growing
 - Vigorous
 - “Clean”
- **Plug drawbacks**
 - Cost
 - Limited CVs
 - Availability
 - Planting dates

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correct depth

too deep

too shallow

planting hole too shallow

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Planting density

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Plant spacing

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Planting dates

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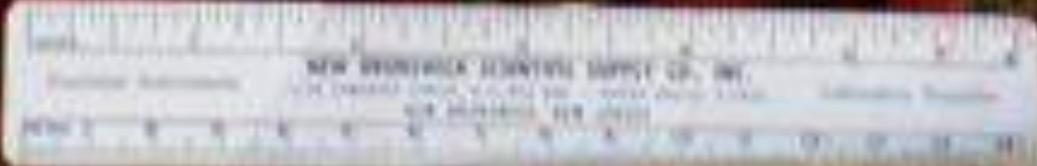
EARLIGLOW

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Strawberry Plasticulture Basics



'Sweet Charlie'



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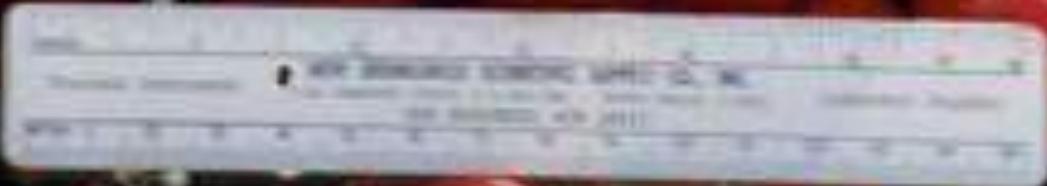
'Chandler'

Strawberry Chandler

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'Allstar'



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‘Jewel’

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'Seneca'

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‘Flavorfest’



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Floating Row Covers:

- Continued growth in fall
 - branch crowns and FBI = increased yield
- Winter protection (low temp and wind)
- Early spring growth = early fruit = highest price
- Frost protection (+4F)
- Pest exclusion
 - TPB and Strawberry Clipper?
 - Deer!
 - Hail

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Double Cropping Summary:

- **Adds to profitability**
 - Two sprays of gramoxone
 - Timing critical
 - Second year of strawberries?
- **Tomatoes – must be planted early**
- **Peppers – proper nutrition critical – heat?**
- **Muskmelons – careful with irrigation – split**
- **Pumpkins – planting date and disease control**

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