

# Protecting Your Strawberries from Fruit Rot



With the wet weather of late, and most strawberry fields at early to full bloom stage, it is time to consider protecting your developing fruit from fruit rot. By far, the most important strawberry diseases are the fruit rots caused by several fungi. They are capable of destroying a large percentage of the fruit. Picking and packing are also more costly when these diseases are present in the field. Losses vary with time and location, as well as weather conditions from first bloom through harvest.

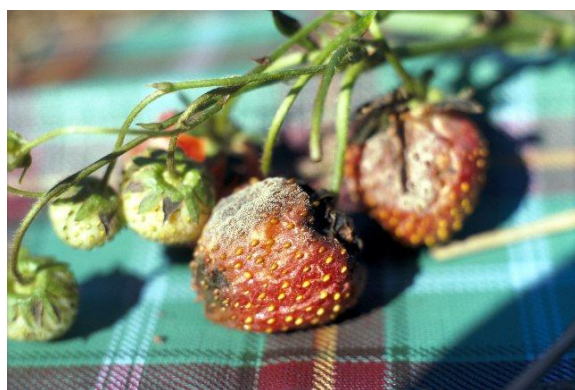


Figure 1: Grey Mold (*Botrytis cinerea*)

Grey mold is very common and often causes serious losses in strawberries. Customers usually complain of off-flavored fruit if berries infected with grey mold are eaten. This disease affects blossoms and blossom stalks of green or ripe fruit. Infection usually starts in the blossom and may destroy the entire blossom stalk. The blossom infection can enter a dormant period in the calyx or hull, then become reactivated to cause fruit rot.

The rot is soft and light brown in color. The fungus may spread to other blossoms and berries through direct contact, or by spores that are blown or splashed. A fine grey powdery growth develops and infects blossoms, fruit stalks, fruit and other plant parts. Fruit rot and grey mold may appear on the picked fruit for one or two days.

Grey mold is favoured by shade or dense foliage in the bed and extended periods of excessive moisture. The likelihood of infection is increased by cool spring/summer temperatures and high humidity, overhead irrigation and natural rainfall. Fruit rot can also be favoured by factors that produce soft fruit, such as high application of nitrogen during fruiting.

**Apply protective fungicides at bloom and continue until harvest if cool wet conditions prevail.**

Fungicides will be the most effective when sprayed on strawberry open blossoms. As more flowers open, repeated applications will be needed to protect the next set of flowers.

The chart below lists the fungicides registered for use on June-bearing strawberries (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.).

### Strawberry Botrytis Grey Mold/Fruit Rot (*Botrytis cinerea*) Disease Management Chart

Product	Chem. Group	Rate/acre	Pre-harvest interval day(s) (PHI)	Restricted Entry Interval (REI)
Actinovate SP PCP#(28672)	Biol.	425 g/1100 L water (spray to wet)	0	Until dry (unless proper PPE worn)
Bravo 720 PCP#(29225)	M4 M5	0.96 L/ac	30	12 hours
Captan 4 Flowable PCP#(9922)	M4	2.3-3.5 L/ 500 L water	6	9 days (hand line irrigation, foliage contact activities) 6 days (hand harvesting) 12 hours (all other activities) *Can enter after 4 hours if proper PPE is worn-cannot exceed 1 hour in a 14 hour period until REI has passed*
Pristine WG PCP#(27985)	7, 11	0.52-0.64 kg/ac	1	24 hours – hand harvesting When dry – general re-entry
Scala SC PCP#(28011)	9	0.8 L/ac	1	12 hours
Serenade MAX Biofungicide (PCP#28549)	Biol.	1.2 to 2.4 kg/acre	0	Until dry (unless PPE is worn)

This table is a guide only. Always refer to the product label for application details and precautions. The information contained in this table is current to April 2022.

## Contact Us

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