

land can be bedded 2 weeks from treating time and strawberry plants set.

Each grower can treat his land himself by the row method or bed method. Costs for this method are quite low. Full details concerning this method can be obtained from County Agricultural Agents, Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations or several of the agricultural supply companies.

INSECTS AND SPIDER MITES

Insects and spider mites cause considerable damage to those fields set to strawberry plants for fruit production. Insects are of less importance in strawberry nurseries. The pests are listed in the order of their importance. The first 7 should always be considered as an annual menace to the strawberry grower.

PESTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE

SPIDER MITES

The problem of identifying infested plants in the field is of primary importance. Symptoms of mite infestation become so pronounced that it is hard to believe that so few mites present could be responsible for the condition of the plant. Severe injury consists of dwarfing and stunting of the plants. Medium injury is characterized by wrinkled leaves and reduced plant growth and yield. Slight injury causes a slight wrinkling of the leaves and irregular folds of the leaf margins. Plants in the field may turn brown or brownish red, but this condition cannot be entirely attributed to mites because other factors could cause these same symptoms.

Of the plant-feeding mites, the Tetranychidae or spider mites are most widespread and most important economically. There is hardly a plant that is not attacked by at least 1 species, and all species appear to be pests.

Mites are distributed by birds, wind and man. They may be carried on clothing from 1 plant to another. Strawberry varieties differ in their susceptibility. Missionary is quite susceptible to mite attack and Florida Ninety to a lesser degree. None are immune. The degree of susceptibility seems to be associated with the plant's growth habit. An upright variety, as Florida Ninety, with a fairly smooth lower leaf surface is more resistant to mites than low-growing varieties having leaves flat on the