

Strawberry Growing

Our strawberry season in Alabama is literally short and sweet and it is quickly drawing to a close right now. However, the planning and preparation work will soon begin for next year's crop. Strawberries are a perennial crop that is primarily managed as an annual that is planted in the early fall and harvested in the spring. Once the crop stops producing the plants are killed and a second crop of some sort is often planted on the plastic to get further use out of the plastic and the drip irrigation system.

June is an excellent time to look back at the season and to make plans to tweak the system for next year. If you are currently a strawberry grower or you are making plans to grow a crop for next spring you need to make plans to attend a program being offered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on June 8th at 6:00PM. The Morgan County Extension office will be the host site for a commercial grower meeting called, "All Things Soil", relative to growing strawberry. Their office is located at 3120 Highway 36 West, Hartselle.

Featured speakers for the evening will be Dr. Edgar Vinson, Alabama Extension Specialist and Dr. Allen Straw, Virginia Tech Extension Specialist. Dr. Vinson will be talking about this year's variety trial results from the Thorsby Research Station. Dr. Straw will be cover everything related to soil management and strawberry production. This will include topics such as soil/bed preparation, fumigation, herbicides, soil fertility, and nematode control. Dr. Straw is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on strawberry production in the Southeastern part of the country.

This wonderful opportunity is provided free of charge by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and some local Farmers Federation offices in North Alabama. A meal will be provided if you pre-register by June 6th. Please contact the Morgan County Extension office at 256-773-2549 or email at mjb0017@aces.edu