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Powdery Mildew in strawberries – new fungicide registered:

Powdery mildew can be an occasional problem for strawberry growers. Now, a new fungicide has been labeled. Quintec (quinoxifen) has been developed by Dow AgroSciences LLC and is registered for powdery mildew control in a number of crops. The fungicide is a protectant with a lower level of risk for developing resistant populations, unlike some of the current fungicides that are systemic in the plant and have a high risk of failure due to pathogen populations mutating and becoming resistant to the chemical. Quintec may be used within 1 day of harvest and up to 4 times per crop season, never more than 2 times in a row. The major current restriction is that no other crop may be grown after strawberries for 12 months after Quintec usage if Quintec is not registered on that crop. The product is toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates.

In our IPM recommendations, we encourage growers to monitor the field for the first signs of powdery mildew—leaf distortion and discoloration. The mildew in the fall does not appear to cause significant damage and may not reappear in the spring. *Therefore, most growers do not need to spray for powdery mildew.* However, fields have been observed in the fall with severe foliar disease incidence, and plant productivity may then be hampered, justifying control measures. Likewise, if powdery mildew pressure occurs in the spring and affects the fruit, the fruit will have a dull appearance and be unmarketable. Most damage is due to fruit infections and fungicides are useful to manage this problem. Quintec can be an important component of a fungicide rotation program. Other fungicides with good to moderate efficacy against powdery mildew include Procure, Nova, sulfur, Pristine, Cabrio and Abound. As a fungicide rotation program is developed, remember: Pristine offers good Botrytis and anthracnose fruit rot control; Nova will have some activity against leaf blights and leaf spots; Cabrio and Abound offer good anthracnose fruit rot control; resistant populations, of the mildew pathogen, to Procure and Nova may be present in certain fields.