

Cultivation of Strawberry under Mulching

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Abstract

This chapter is about the cultivation of strawberry under mulching. As we know, Strawberry (*Fragaria × ananassa* Duch.) is one of the most fascinating fruit product of the world belong to the family Rosaceae. It has a unique place among the cultivated berry fruits. Its fruits are attractive, tasty and nutritious with a distinct and pleasant aroma, and flavor. Adverse weather conditions like occurrence of frost, heavy rains, hails and temperature fluctuations especially during flowering and fruiting are limiting factors in strawberry cultivation. To protect the strawberry crop from adverse weather conditions protected cultivation under playhouse or poly tunnel is a better option. Mulching is an important cultural practice for cultivation of strawberry. Polythene mulches play a vital role in strawberry cultivation as it helps in conserving moisture, controlling weeds, regulating hydrothermal regimes and protecting the delicate fruits from direct contact with the soil. Mulches reduce the soil evaporation and increase yield by increasing the water use efficiency (WUE). At present, use of black polythene sheets for mulching in strawberry is a common practice. Different colored plastic mulches are also being used and reported to improve the yield and quality of crops by various researchers. Usually mulching is done to avoid the contact of strawberry fruit from soil. Keeping in view the above facts this chapter has been prepared to study the protected cultivation of Strawberry influence by different mulching materials.

Keywords: Growth, mulching, protected cultivation, quality, strawberry, yield

1. Introduction

The strawberry is a widely grown spp of the genus *Fragaria*, which is known as the strawberries, and are cultivated worldwide for their fruits. Strawberries are always get very much appreciation for their aroma, color, juicy texture and also sweet taste. Strawberries are consumed in large quantities, either fresh or in some processed products of foods as juice, pies, chocolates, milkshakes and ice cream. Strawberry