

STRAWBERRY FERTILITY RESEARCH SUMMARY



OBJECTIVE

This research assessed the efficacy of **TrueSolum™** for enhancing fertility of strawberries compared to grower's standard fertilizer program, both at full strength and at a reduced rate.

TRIAL DESCRIPTION

Florida Ag Research performed the test with two treatment protocols versus control.

- **Control:** Full strength grower's standard fertilizer program
- **Treatment 1:** Weekly applications of 0.25 grower's standard fertilizer program + 0.5 gal/acre **TrueSolum**
- **Treatment 2:** Weekly applications alternating between full strength grower's standard fertilizer program and 0.5 gal/acre **TrueSolum**

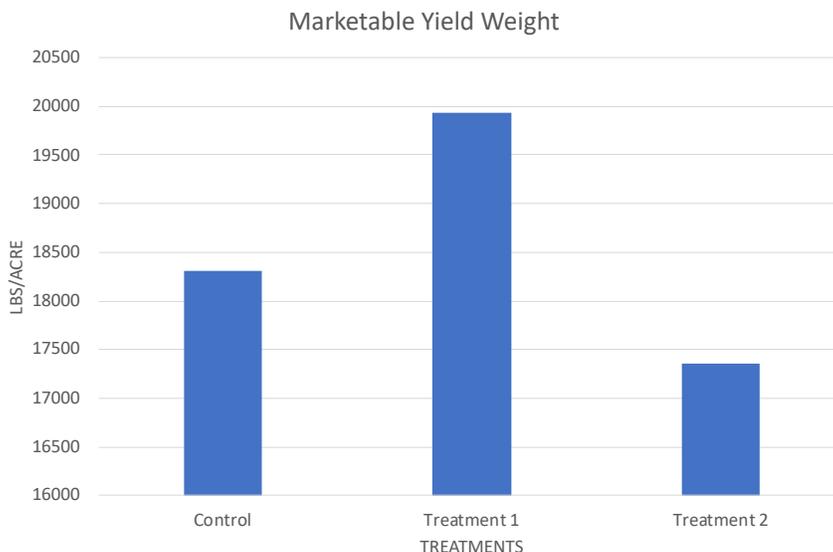
Application of the Control and two Treatments began 77 days after planting Sensation variety strawberries and continued once per week for 5 weeks, totaling 6 applications. Strawberries were harvested nine times throughout the period and marketable, unmarketable and weights of berries were recorded.

RESULTS

Marketable yields were higher with Treatment 1, **8.9%** increase in weight and **7.5%** increase in count, versus Control. Statistically, market yield weights were lowest for the plots with Treatment 2.

DISCUSSION

Interestingly, in this 6 week trial, initial marketable yields were higher on the Control plots, however as the season progressed, the marketable yields were higher where weekly **TrueSolum** applications were made. This indicates that full season application of **TrueSolum**, including pretreatment to expedite its initial impact, could result in even greater increases in marketable yield by season's end.



CONCLUSION

Applying **TrueSolum**, even with a 75% reduction in grower's standard fertilizer program, significantly improved marketable yields relative to a full fertility program. The possibility to reduce chemical fertilizers offers an opportunity for growers to improve their soil quality, while increasing yields and possibly reducing input costs.

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