



### **More Problems This Season**

In the last newsletter we talked about Potassium problems that this season has caused. Another problem that is showing up is Zinc deficiency in some fields. It is important to maintain zinc levels throughout the season so that leaf area and fruit size will be maintained. If zinc deficiency is showing up in your field a foliar application of zinc now and another in 7 to 10 days will work well.

The best way to identify zinc deficiency is by plant analysis because it can be misinterpreted. The following picture is a case of zinc deficiency that was caused by low soil zinc levels plus a very heavy fruit load this season.



**Zinc Deficiency in Strawberry**

### **Begin to Plan for Renovation**

As soon as harvest is over we must begin renovation. It is critical to get the berries renovated as soon as possible. In some areas I will tell a grower after harvest you have time for a coffee before you renovate that's all.

The berry crop hopefully still looks fairly healthy after harvest. Ideally we do not want the strawberry to go into a dormant stage. Getting the crop back to lush growth as soon as possible will guarantee the health of the crop for next season.

A berry crop that has gone through a large harvest has burnt out a lot of reserves and it needs to be revitalized. The longer that we prolong this the more damage that will be done to the root system and crown. The sooner we get this plant built back up the better the bud set and yield next season. The work we do at this time of year will make or break our yield next season.

At this time it is good to take soil tests and send them to the lab so that fertilizer recommendations and programs can be in place as soon as harvest is over. If you do not have results back in time do not delay a renovation program must be put into place to get things growing.

I will discuss strategies on fertilization at renovation in the next newsletter.

In summary there are a few things to check for now,

- Zinc levels and foliar application of zinc
- Potassium this season is low, foliar application of Potassium not only increases flavour of the berry and helps maintain size it will help the crown through harvest and leave it in better condition for renovation.
- Keep up the calcium application the past few days have been wet and calcium will help prevent disease. Calcium may not be as effective as a fungicide but it helps

and has no delay until harvest and  
keeps fruit firm

- GET THOSE SOIL SAMPLES TO  
THE LAB