



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Beach Office
2449 Princess Anne Rd.
Municipal Center, Building 14
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
757/385-4769 Fax: 757/385-5684
royf@vt.edu or rflanaga@vbgov.com
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/> or www.vbgov.com/agriculture

Virginia Strawberry Growers:
September 13, 2018

Unless this is your first strawberry crop, we all know that every year, this desirable crop brings challenges. As we begin to start our planting season on strawberries, I am hearing from folks all over about certain varieties being tested positive for anthracnose (*Colletotrichum*). As we know, there are two forms of *Colletotrichum* common in strawberries, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Colletotrichum acutatum*. You can find out more about these fungus species here: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/anthracnose-crown-rot-of-strawberry>

The purpose of this letter is two-fold:

We have an offer from our partners north of us to test any plants where anthracnose is suspected. You can mail directly to them, but we would prefer that you contact your local extension agent and ask them to sample and mail for you. They would like 2 plants per sample, no soil, and please include location, grower name, and variety. A sample would be a single variety coming from a single plant tip source.

Ship sample or samples to:

University of Maryland
Attn: Dr. Karen Rane
3134 Plant Sciences Building
College Park, MD 20742

(This service is being done at no cost to the grower, but please only send plant samples that you suspect has disease issues)

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1. Most importantly, know your tip source. This is not the farm that grew your plugs (plug propagator). This the nursery that your plug propagator purchased the strawberry tips from in order to grow your plugs. In the case that you grew your own plugs, this is the farm from which your tips were sourced. Just knowing your tip source will help your extension agent or specialist to advise you on the best course of action for fungicide applications this season. Or, you could save the time and expense of spraying for a problem that you don't actually have.

For more information on making fungicide applications based on your anthracnose risk, click here: <http://smallfruits.org/assets/documents/ipm-guides/Fungicide-Selection.pdf>

For advice, please contact Dr. Jayesh Samtani, Small Fruit Production Specialist, Virginia Tech (jsamtani@vt.edu), or Dr. Chuck Johnson, Plant Pathologist, Virginia Tech (spcdis@vt.edu).

With the abnormal now being the new normal, I wish you the best this season. If I can help in anyway, just shoot me an email, text, or call my cell.

Roy

Roy D. Flanagan III
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent- Virginia Beach
Virginia Cooperative Extension
2449 Princess Anne Rd. / Building 14/ Room 212
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
royf@vt.edu or rflanaga@vbqov.com
757-385-GROW (4769) office/ 757-641-1434 cell