



Georgia Strawberry Growers Association News

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In this issue:

Methyl Bromide Alternatives Field Day.....	1
Weather Information.....	1
Pink Sheet-Updates Needed.....	2

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Methyl Bromide Alternatives Field Day 1 p.m., Wed., Feb 27th, Lane Packing

by Phil Brannen

We will be conducting a methyl bromide alternatives field day on Wed., Feb. 27, 2002 at the Lane Peach Packing Company near Ft. Valley, Ga. at 1 p.m.. The field day will be designed around presentations and demonstrations of new equipment, methods, and technologies which may be necessary to replace methyl-bromide fumigation. Featured speakers will be Mr. Stan Childers with Dow Chemical Co. on injection of fumigants in the drip system and representatives from Hendrix and Dial on how to apply new products with a bed press machine and also any modifications we may need to make on our machines. This will give growers time to start considering new equipment purchases,

etc. which they may need- well ahead of the methyl bromide ban.

We will kick off at 1 p.m. at the Lane Peach Packing Company. Lane Packing Company is located to the east of Fort Valley on Highway 96. It is just few miles west of I-75, so it is a great central location for Georgia strawberry growers. For additional information contact Michelle Lewis at 706-542-2685 or email:

tmlewis@arches.uga.edu

We hope to see you at the Field Day. There is a restaurant at Lane Packing Co.

Weather / Freeze Protection Information Update

by Gerard Krewer

It looks like it may be a long freeze protection season this year. Many growers have had to freeze protect several times

already. There are number of sources to consider when gathering freeze protection information. General information and tables showing the relationship between low temperature expected, wind speed and the amount of water required can be found at www.smallfruits.org go to the Weather section and look for the publication on freeze protection with irrigation. Your county agent can also print this publication for you.

Local TV station weather information here in South Georgia has been quite poor. The National Weather Service does a better job. Go to: <http://weather.gov>

Another source is the Weather Channel. 1. Go to: <http://weather.com>
2. Enter your zip code 3. click on My Weather 4. Look above the 10 day forecast and click on Hour by Hour. This will give you a detailed forecast by the hour for your area.

Many farm supply centers have a DTN system monitor. Go to Weather, then Forecast, then the B button and scroll

through the maps. You should find a technical weather map showing the location of the high and low pressure centers (this is important, since if you are under a high there will be no wind at night and radiation freezes are more likely), highs and lows for five days out (in 10 degree increments), and a frost/freeze map. The frost/freeze map may scare you since it often shows areas under threat of a freeze much farther south than the low temperature map.

"Pink Sheet" Reprinting

The "pink sheet" is a list showing growers that have PYO and/or prepicked berries for sale. Each year we send out a total of several thousand to all the county extension offices in the state. This year we will also add a wholesale category. If you have corrections to this list, call Kathy Swain at 229-386-3355 or give them to me at the field day.

Please let us know if you have wholesale berries for sale.