

**Title** Effect of nutrient and mulching on the growth, yield and anthocyanin content of strawberry cv. Chandler

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### Abstract

The strawberry plants being herbaceous, perennial and having shallow root system need effective nutrient management for better growth & yield. Hence an experiment was carried out with strawberry cv. Chandler at the experimental farm of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Cooch Behar, India with paddy straw and black polythene as mulching material and different sources of nutrient to evaluate their effects on growth yield and anthocyanin content of strawberry cv. Chandler. From the results obtained it was found that mulching with paddy straw along with FYM + NPK (T<sub>15</sub>) exhibited maximum number of crown, number of stolon, plantlets number/stolon, runner no./ plant, no of fruit/ plant, fruit weight (gm) and yield/plant (grn/plant) while mulching with paddy straw along with FYM (T<sub>12</sub>) recorded maximum number of flower trusses/plant, flower number/plant, days to first flower, fifty percent flowering (day) and flowering duration (day). The treatment without mulching + vermicompost (T<sub>3</sub>) and the treatment with only black polythene mulch and FYM (T<sub>7</sub>) took minimum days from flowering to harvest (days) along with maximum fruit length (mm) whereas paddy straw without any nutrient (T<sub>11</sub>) was better in terms of length of stolon. Vermicompost + NPK without mulching (T<sub>4</sub>) showed good number of leaves and canopy spread. The maximum anthocyanin content was recorded under black polythene + vermicompost (T<sub>8</sub>) which were found to be *at par* with paddy straw + Vermicompost (T<sub>13</sub>). Thus it is concluded that using straw mulch has a good prospect of getting higher yields while black polythene + vermicompost is best for increasing the anthocyanin content.