

Abstract

The control of postharvest *Botrytis* fruit rot was evaluated during 1997-98 and 1998-99. Weekly applications of captan and thiram were examined at two or three different rates, respectively. Iprodione applications were combined with the captan and thiram treatments and also applied alone for two peak bloom periods. Strawberry fruit were harvested and graded twice weekly for marketable yield and preharvest incidence of *Botrytis* fruit rot. For postharvest evaluations, fruit from four harvests were selected and stored at 4°C, and *Botrytis* fruit rot incidence was recorded over 14 days of storage. Fungicide treatments reduced the incidence of preharvest *Botrytis* fruit rot and increased marketable yield. The incidence of postharvest *Botrytis* fruit rot was significantly affected by harvest date, length of time in storage, and fungicide treatment. The highest rate captan and thiram treatments had the least *Botrytis* fruit rot and the longest storage life. Reduced-rate captan and thiram treatments generally did not provide the same control as their respective high-rate treatments. Iprodione added to either the captan or thiram treatments did not consistently reduce the preharvest or postharvest incidence of *Botrytis* fruit rot or increase yield. Regular, full-rate fungicide treatments appear to be necessary to control *Botrytis* fruit rot in Florida and to provide the storage life necessary to reach distant markets.