

Title The effect of irrigation method on the quality and shelf-life of strawberry fruit in organic production
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Abstract

The organic production of strawberries was investigated at MTT Agrifood Research, Finland during the period 2000-2002. Research topics included irrigation methods and their effect on fruit quality. The experimental field at MTT Plant Protection in Jokioinen was equipped with drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems. The effect of irrigation methods was studied on two strawberry cultivars, 'Bounty' and 'Jonsok', planted on black plastic mulch. The quality and shelf-life of freshly harvested fruit was tested under storage conditions in a moist chamber. 'Jonsok' had more grey mould infection and a shorter shelf-life than 'Bounty'. Weather conditions during the harvest season, and the cultivar had more influence on fruit quality than the irrigation method.