

Kentucky Fruit Facts

June-July Newsletter 2019

<http://www.uky.edu/hort/documents-list-fruit-facts>

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor
Daniel Becker, Extension Associate, Editor
Denise Stephens, Newsletter Designer

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Fruit Crop News

John Strang, U.K. Extension Horticulturist

We are well into blueberry harvest and the thornless erect blackberries are beginning to fruit. The 'Natchez' thornless erect variety, one of the earliest of this blackberry type to fruit is featured in our masthead photo. This is a very large blackberry and easily attracts the attention of consumers. However, our cloudy/rainy weather has not been helpful for the development of high sugar levels.

Most growers across the state have 100 percent apple crops. Our orchard in Lexington has a very light crop on a number of varieties and full crop on others. This is true for several orchards in central Kentucky possibly due to some over cropping in 2018 and we think poor pollination conditions due to rain this spring. We are seeing surprising low levels of fire blight in orchards despite the high infection potentials during bloom. Pear crops for both European and Asian



University of Kentucky
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pears look good. Peach growers are generally looking at full crops, but the crop varies between varieties. Some varieties like Contender required heavy thinning, while varieties such as Messina® did not need thinning or have light crops. There seems to be a correlation between peach trees with light crops and winter injury or wet sites in western Kentucky. Most blueberry and blackberry growers also have full crops. However, I talked with one grower in Metcalf county that estimated that he had a 50 percent blueberry crop. On April 1 the Mesonet stations in Pulaski, Metcalfe and Warren counties recorded temperatures ranging from 24.8 to 26.6°F and this area of the state being more advanced in floral development lost some flower buds.

We have completed strawberry harvest and the crop varied widely between growers, Figure 1. In southern areas exposed to the April 1 freeze floating row covers were a necessity. The frequent rain showers hindered u-pick harvest in both plasticulture and matted row plantings. Fruit disease was a problem and substantially shortened the harvest season for some growers. Anthracnose crown rot was noted in western Kentucky where plants were not produced from disease free Canadian tips. Strawberry flavor was surprisingly good this season.

Dr. Bessin reported that spotted wing drosophila (SWD) was captured in one western Kentucky county the week of June 9th. Thus small fruit growers (raspberry, blackberry and blueberry) should begin monitoring SWD traps to determine when to begin protective sprays during harvest. Ric has noted previously wide variations in the detection of SWD between farms even in the same county.

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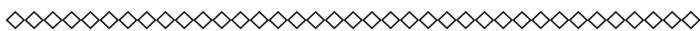


Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Figure 1. Flavorfest strawberry from 2019 U.K. matted row trials in Lexington.

Growers with smaller plantings may choose to use a fine meshed netting to cover crops.



Upcoming Meetings

All times EST unless noted

June 25, Huber Orchard and Winery Tour, 19816 Huber Rd., Starlight, IN 47106. Huber Orchard and Winery are located just north of Louisville. This is one of the best examples of production and agritourism in the Midwest and well worth your time to attend. Program and registration information are below.

July 28-31, Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) Conference, Iowa City, IA. Hotel and registration information may be found at: <https://nutgrowing.org/nnga-2019-annual-conference/>

Jan. 6-7, 2020 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511. Contact John Strang Office phone: 859-257-5685; Email: jstrang@uky.edu

Huber Orchard and Winery Tour

19816 Huber Road,
Starlight, IN 47106

Alternatively, directions are available on Huber's website: <https://www.huberwinery.com/hours-directions/>

You are warmly welcomed to join us for the summer meeting of the Indiana Horticultural Society, held in conjunction with the Indiana Vegetable Growers' Association. It will be held Tuesday June 25 at Huber Orchard and Winery, in Starlight, IN. Huber's is one of the largest and best agri-tourism destinations in the Midwest. The meeting will focus on commercial production of fruits and vegetables, and farm marketing. All those interested are welcome to attend.

The history of Huber Orchard and Winery began when Simon Huber emigrated from Germany in 1843 and settled in Starlight, Indiana. One branch of the family now operates Huber Orchard and Winery. While farming operations started in 1932, it wasn't until the 1960s that the transition to direct farm marketing took place. Huber's is now one of the premier farm market destinations in the Midwest.

The owners, cousins Greg and Ted Huber, are the 6th generation of Huber's to run the farm and the 8th generation are currently being raised on the farm. For many years Greg has run the field operations, but his son AJ is now assuming this responsibility. Greg's wife Jan and daughter Marcie take care of book keeping and administration, and daughter Allie runs Plantation Hall events. Ted is the wine maker and runs all winery operations including distilling, and his son Christian has recently returned to the operation full time and is involved in wine making and distilling. while Ted's wife Dana coordinates distribution and public relations. This is indeed a family owned and operated business.

Huber Orchard and Winery comprises about 700 acres, with about 80 acres of grapes (mostly wine grapes but also a few seedless), 50 acres of apples, 30 acres of peaches, 8 acres of blackberries, 25 acres of strawberries, 100 acres of vegetables such as sweetcorn, green beans and tomatoes, with a further 80 acres of pumpkins and gourds. Christmas trees take up another 30 acres or so. Most crops are sold U-pick and all is sold on the farm. Excess fruit is used in the winery for the production of fruit wines, infusions and other winery products. At the peak of the fall season, over 300 employees are needed to help with the various operations on the farm. While the fall is their busiest time, they are also looking at expanding their season with blueberries, strawberries, music, weddings and corporate events.

Prior to our last Indiana Hort. Society summer visit to Huber’s in 2012, they have purchased some additional land to provide for expansion and more flexibility with plantings and operations. The other major development is their distillery, that was opened in 2014. They now grow a number of grain crops that are used for the distilling operation. The Huber’s have focused on diversification and value-added products. For example, not only do they grow apples and sell them fresh, but they make apple cider, apple butter, apple wine, and apple brandy. Speaking of apples, the Huber’s mostly grow Golden Delicious, Gala, Winesap and Fuji, although GoldRush is also becoming quite popular. They recently planted some Evercrisp so are interested to see how they perform.

Banquets of up to 1000 people can be held on-site for weddings, corporate picnics, and special events. All catering is done in-house. They also offer school tours and have a 30 acre children’s farm park. The farm market is open year-round with bakery items and wine available over the winter. They have reconfigured their children’s zoo and it is now a Children’s Farm Park, with miniature tractors and various activities for the little ones.

While Huber Orchard and Winery is on a much larger scale than many of the orchards and farm markets in the state, all growers are likely to learn useful information during our tour. Their focus on the customer and providing exceptional customer service is applicable, not matter what the size of the operation. For more information, visit their webpage: <http://www.huberwinery.com/>

Schedule (subject to change)
(all Eastern Daylight Time):

Tuesday, June 25

- 9:30 a.m. Convene and registration at Huber Orchard and Winery.
- 10:00 a.m. Introductions, brief walking tour of facilities – winery, market, ice cream store, banquet hall
- 10:30 a.m. Field tour - apples
- 11:45 p.m. Lunch - \$10 – RSVP requested (see below)
- 1:00 p.m. Field tours – peaches, vegetables, small fruit

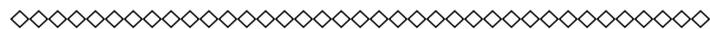
- 4:00 p.m. Wrap up and conclude
Optional winery and distillery tour for those interested

Registration

A registration fee of \$5.00 per family or farm is payable at registration.

Lunch

A catered lunch will be served onsite. This will most likely be fried chicken with vegetables and drinks. There is a \$10/person charge for lunch, collected onsite. Please go to the following website to RSVP so we can plan for the right amount of food: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6oqUliojjOUNb0x



Potential IQF Berry Processing for Growers in IN, OH, PA, VA, WV and KY

North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association member, Trellis Growing Systems recently won a USDA-AMS Local Foods Promotion Program grant to do a feasibility study for an IQF (individually quick frozen) processing facility to service Midwest berry growers. The facility would be in Circleville, OH. They have created a survey through PollDaddy to try to determine grower interest, berry volumes, pricing, etc.

If you are a grower in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, or Kentucky, please take their survey! <https://trellis2018.survey.fm/iqf-facility-for-midwest-berries>



Webinar Series to offer Insights into Marketing, Farm Management

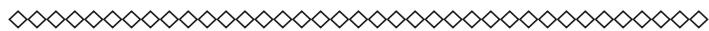
From the Center for Profitable Agriculture

7 Habits for Effective Farmers, a webinar series hosted by Tennessee’s Center for Profitable Agriculture, will cover a variety of topics related to effective farm business management, marketing and planning. This free webinar series, which will be held the first Wednesday of each month from May through November, will benefit direct farm marketers,

value-added agriculture entrepreneurs and agritourism operators. Webinars, which feature speakers from University of Tennessee Extension, the UT Institute of Agriculture, the Center for Profitable Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky, will cover such topics as Business Planning and Recordkeeping, Budgeting, Evaluating Financial Health, Production Risk Management, Goal Setting and Marketing, Farm Safety and Stress Management, and Succession Planning. The one hour webinars will begin at noon Eastern time, 11 a.m. Central.

Click here for additional information about the webinars. To receive links to the webinar sessions, register online at <https://utk.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=O0wN/agD6fE%3D>. Contact Iris Cui at xcui10@utk.edu or 931-648-5725 if you have questions.

The webinars are brought to you by the Center for Profitable Agriculture, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Southern Extension Risk Management Education, and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28585.



2017 Census of Agriculture: Kentucky Produce Snapshot

By Matt Ernst, independent writer

The USDA in April released the 2017 Census of Agriculture results, and the data on produce acreage reflects on-farm realities for specialty crop growers in Kentucky and beyond.

The census results show many trends continue in U.S. agriculture: fewer total farms; farm production value increasing among larger farms; increasing age of farm operators; and fewer farms “in the middle,” in terms of both farm size and value of sales.

Other trends shown in the census data are well-known to specialty crop growers. Nationally, one in four farms is operated by a beginning farmer with less than 10 years in farming. These farms are smaller, producing less market value than the average farm, and may be more likely to have a female named as the primary operator.

Small farms also tend to sell products direct to

consumers and institutions. Sales direct to consumers reached nearly \$3 billion in 2017, with sales to institutions and retailers exceeding \$10 billion, according to USDA.

National totals for field vegetable production show how farms in “the middle” continue to decline, the gap widening between very small farms and very large farms.

The number of farms with a vegetable harvest rose 3 percent nationally from 2012 to 2017; however, the area of vegetables harvested from fields declined, from 4.49 million acres to 4.37 million acres.

The reason? More very small vegetable farms and consolidation of very large vegetable farms. Farms harvesting less than 5 acres went from 46,794 in 2012 to 50,814 in 2017. Farms harvesting 1,000 or more acres of vegetables declined from 910 to 845.

Kentucky bucked that trend, as the Commonwealth’s total field vegetable acreage increased from 7,196 acres in 2012 to 8,320 in 2017.

Vegetables grown under protection (greenhouse and high tunnel) also increased. The total value of vegetables grown under protection increased nearly \$1.5 million from 2012 to 2017, with 165 new operations. That makes sense, given the number of new high tunnels established across Kentucky since 2012.

Census data also show Kentucky growing a more diverse vegetable mix. Acreage was steady to declining for standbys like melons, sweet corn, cucumbers, pumpkins and tomatoes. But total vegetable acreage increased. Two reasons for the increase: 1) acreage rebounds in peppers (both bell and chile) and squash (both summer and winter); and 2) big increases in crops with 75 or fewer total acres.

The list of these “smaller” crops reads like a Who’s Who of crops that are important for growers selling direct through farmers’ markets, CSAs and direct-to-institution: head and leaf lettuce, broccoli, onions, sweet potatoes, greens and spinach, eggplant, carrots, beets, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, radishes and fresh cut herbs. These crops, combined, increased from 304 harvested acres in 2012 to nearly 800 acres in 2017.

Fruit acreage is another sign of continued diversification among Kentucky’s produce growers, as fruit production increased both in acreage totals and the number of operations. Apple acreage continued to decline, as it has since the 1980s; but other tree fruits

and berries are on the rise. The biggest fruit boost came in orchards with less than 5 acres.

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service has a new online portal making it easier to find data from the Census of Agriculture this year. It is available at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/>

Kentucky Fruits and Vegetables: By the Numbers				
Year and Acreage	2017	2012	2007	1997
Vegetables (harvested)	8,320	7,196	7,535	4,722
Orchards (planted)	3,342	3,092	3,861	4,102
Berries (total planted)	900	866	772	n/a
Grapes (total planted)	565	626	618	96
Vegetables (protected, sq. ft)	1,483,286	954,291	498,218	n/a



Insecticide and Miticide Update for Fruit Crops

Excerpted from an article by Dr. Celeste Welty, Extension Entomologist, Ohio State University (614-292-2803; welty.1@osu.edu) Ohio VegNet News <https://u.osu.edu/vegnetnews>

The following information is from The Ohio State University VegNet Newsletter (April 24, 2019 & May 4, 2019)

Apta from Nichino America contains tolfenpyrad as the active ingredient; IRAC’s mode-of-action group 21A. Since February 2019, new crops on supplemental labels for Apta are strawberry and other low growing berries, raspberries and other caneberries, and blueberries and other bushberries. Apta controls thrips, plum curculio, fruitworms, Lygus (tarnished plant bug), and suppresses spotted-wing Drosophila.

Exirel is now allowed on raspberries and other caneberries, as shown on a supplemental label from November 2018. Use on caneberries is with a 1-day pre-harvest interval, for control of spotted-wing drosophila and adult root weevils. Exirel is from FMC, contains cyantranilprole as the active ingredient, in IRAC group 28.

PQZ is a new insecticide product from Nichino America that has been registered since 2018 but was missed in our earlier updates. PQZ contains pyrifluquinazon as the active ingredient. It is in IRAC group 9B. It controls aphids, whiteflies, and leafhoppers, and is allowed for use on pome fruit, stone fruit, and grapes.

Magister SC Miticide from Gowan Company is now registered for use on many specialty crops. Although it is called a miticide because it controls spider mites and rust mites, it also controls some insects (psyllids and whiteflies), and powdery mildew on some crops. The active ingredient is fenazaquin. It is in mode-of-action group as a miticide is 21A, the same group that contains Nexter, Portal, Torac, and Apta. Magister kills mite eggs by contact, and kills mite adults and immatures by contact and ingestion. For fungicidal activity, it is in FRAC group 39. Magister is highly toxic to bees, so care must be taken to not spray it on blooming crops or weeds. Small fruit crops now on the label are blueberries (7-day PHI), caneberries (7-day PHI), strawberries (1-day PHI), and grapes (7-day PHI). Tree fruit crops now on the label are pome fruit (7-day PHI) and stone fruit (3-day PHI). Hops are also on the label (7-day PHI). The label specifies a limit of one application per year on each crop, and a 12-hour re-entry interval. The rates are 24-36 or 32-36 fl oz per acre, depending on crop.



News Release- USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Producers’ Costs for Organic Certification

By Dr. Peter M Hirst, Purdue University, Professor of Horticulture, hirst@purdue.edu

News Release WASHINGTON, May 6, 2019 – USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that organic producers and handlers

can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). Applications for fiscal 2019 funding are due Oct. 31, 2019. “Producers can visit their local FSA county offices to apply for up to 75 percent of the cost of organic certification,” said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. “This also gives organic producers an opportunity to learn about other valuable USDA resources, like farm loans and conservation assistance, that can help them succeed. Organic producers can take advantage of a variety of USDA programs from help with field buffers to routine operating expenses to storage and handling equipment.” OCCSP received continued support through the 2018 Farm Bill. It provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA’s National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Eligible expenses for cost-share reimbursement include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage. Certified producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 75 percent of certification costs each year, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope, including crops, livestock, wild crops, handling and state organic program fees. Opportunities for State Agencies Today’s announcement also includes the opportunity for state agencies to apply for grant agreements to administer the OCCSP program in fiscal 2019. State agencies that establish agreements for fiscal year 2019 may be able to extend their agreements and receive additional funds to administer the program in future years. FSA will accept applications from state agencies for fiscal year 2019 funding for cost-share assistance through May 29, 2019. More Information To learn more about organic certification cost share, please visit the OCCSP webpage view the notice of funds availability on the Federal Register, or contact your FSA county office. To learn more about USDA support for organic agriculture, visit <https://www.usda.gov/topics/organic>.

An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of Grape in Kentucky Newly Released

A new IPM guide covering grapes (Figure 2) has recently been completed and is posted on the University of Kentucky site at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID254/ID254.pdf> Printed copies will follow shortly and should be available through local County Cooperative Extension Offices. This guide like the apple, bramble and strawberry guides has a heavy emphasis on photographs and is intended to help growers identify common disease, insect, weed, wildlife and abiotic problems as well as provide management information. The next IPM guide in this series will center on peaches.

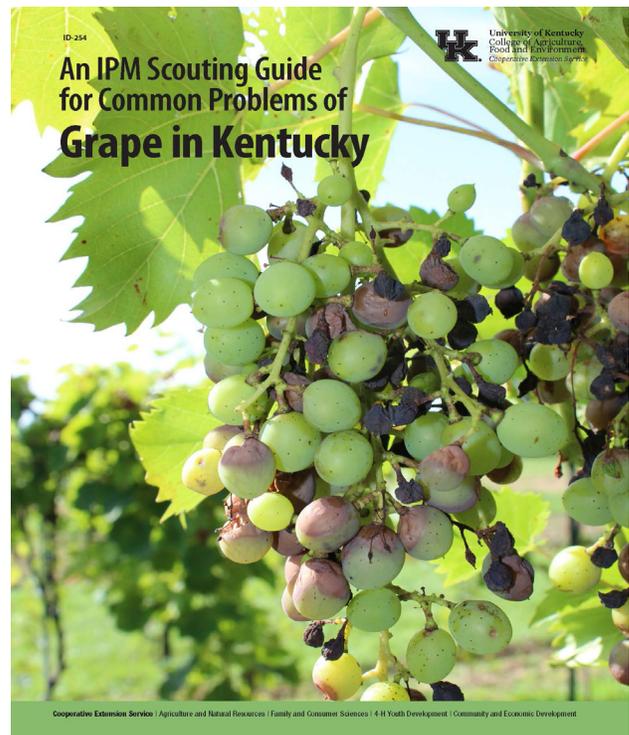


Figure 2. An IPM Guide for Common Problems of Grape in Kentucky



New Resource: Recordkeeping Manual for Private Pesticide Applicators

By Dr. Emily Pfeufer, U.K. Extension Plant Pathologist, and Dr. Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist Posted on April 30, 2019

An updated Recordkeeping Manual for Private Pesticide Applicators in Kentucky is now available



online or linked through the University of Kentucky Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP - <http://entomology.ca.uky.edu/uk-pesticide-safety-education-program-psep>) webpage (look under 'Info for Certified Private Applicators').

Safety is emphasized in this update, with space allotted for Worker Protection Standards (WPS) training records, updated respirator fitting records, important phone numbers for pesticide applicators, and numerous comprehensive pesticide record forms. A step-by-step sprayer calibration worksheet and volume and weight equivalents are also included to help make the manual an essential part of Kentucky farm operations. In addition to the electronic version linked above, hard copies are available through any County Extension Office in Kentucky.

Asian Longhorn Tick Confirmed in Kentucky

By Dr. Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist Posted on May 7, 2019

The first confirmed detection of Asian longhorn tick in Kentucky occurred on July 15, 2018; the tick was collected from a research elk in Martin County. This was both a new state record and a new host record for this invasive tick.

What you need to know about Asian longhorned ticks—a new tick in the United States

What do Asian longhorned ticks look like?



What we know about Asian longhorned ticks

- Not normally found in the Western Hemisphere, these ticks were reported for the first time in the United States in 2017.
- Asian longhorned ticks have been found on pets, livestock, wildlife, and people.
- The female ticks can lay eggs and reproduce without mating.
- Up to thousands of ticks may be found at a time, or on an animal.
- In other countries, bites from these ticks can make people and animals seriously ill. As of May 28, 2019, no harmful germs have been found in the ticks collected in the United States. Research is ongoing.
- Researchers are looking for these ticks to find out where they live.
- As of May 28, 2019, Asian longhorned ticks have been found in Ark., Conn., Ky., Md., N.C., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Tenn., Va., and W.Va.

Protect yourself, your pets, and your livestock

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions.
- Wear permethrin-treated clothing.
- Shower as soon as possible after spending time outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.
- Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors, if the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed.
- Treat pets and livestock for ticks with veterinarian-approved products.

What to do if you think you have found an Asian longhorned tick

- Remove ticks from people and animals as quickly as possible.
- Save the ticks in rubbing alcohol in a jar or a ziplock bag, then:
 - Contact your health department about steps you can take to prevent tick bites and tickborne diseases.
 - Contact a veterinarian for information about how to protect pets from ticks and tick bites.
 - Contact your state agriculture department or local agricultural extension office about ticks on livestock or for tick identification.

For more information, see:

www.cdc.gov/Ticks
www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/tp-longhorned-tick.pdf



Figure 3. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a fact sheet to help with identification of Asian longhorned ticks, as well as providing information on how to protect yourself. <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/pdfs/AsianLonghornedTick-P.pdf>.

This new tick is significant due to its wide host range (which includes domestic and wild animals), its proficiency in developing heavy infestations on animals, and its ability to serve as a potential vector of bacterial and viral diseases of animals. So far, there have been no confirmed pathogens transmitted from this tick in North America, but that could change.

The Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEVBD) has a great informational website.

We would encourage you to submit suspected ticks to your local Extension office for identification.

Managing Voles in Blueberries

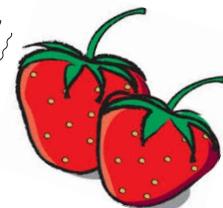
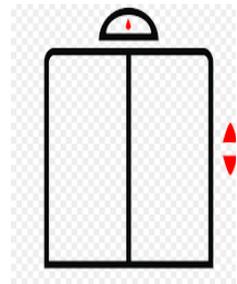
By Chris Smigell, Extension Associate for Small Fruit and Vegetables

University of Kentucky Horticulture Extension Associate Chris Smigell demonstrates the proper management of voles in the production of blueberries in a new video from the UK Department of Horticulture. The video is available online at <https://youtu.be/WvFJobCKo8M>. For more information on this topic, contact your county's extension program. Production of this video received support from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund via a grant from the Kentucky Horticulture Council.

FRUIT HUMOR

A strawberry in an elevator!

What is red and goes up and down?



Receiving Fruit Facts on the Internet

By subscribing to the email notification service you will receive an email announcement when each new issue is posted on the web with a link.

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University of Kentucky
Horticulture Department
N-318 Ag. Science Ctr. No.
Lexington KY 40546-0091
College of Agriculture,
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Cooperative Extension Service

