

Improving & Maintaining Soil Health for Berry Production

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Growers realize that optimal plant performance depends on good soil health which includes the chemical, physical and biological components of the soil. While there are some general practices that impact soil health, certain specific practices have proven beneficial in strawberry and raspberry production. This presentation will examine several practices that seem to enhance plant performance beyond simply applying appropriate amounts of fertilizer.



Marvin Pritts obtained a B.S. in Biology from Bucknell University in 1978, an M.S. in Biology from the University of South Carolina in 1980, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture at Michigan State University working with wild species of blueberries. Marvin came to Cornell in 1984 as the berry crop specialist with an appointment in extension, research, and teaching. He works primarily with production, season extension, and pest management systems in strawberries and raspberries, and has consulted with berry farmers throughout the world. He teaches several courses at Cornell and is a frequent guest lecturer in the local schools and community. Marvin has published more than 75 refereed papers, given more than 1,000 extension talks, and presented several keynote talks at international conferences.