Sustainable Double Cropping Cultivation with Fresh Everbearers

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Fieldday 2025

Worldwide Expertise for Food & Flowers

Current situation

- Growing hectares of strawberry cultivation (500 ha in the Netherlands)
- Lots of junebearers however everbearers are gaining popularity
- Most common cultivation was the double cropping with a Junebearer like Elsanta
- Yield has been decreasing over the years
- Why?
  - Pest and decease control
  - Climate
  - Labour
  - Energy/gas prices
  - Etc..

→ new cultivation concepts are needed!

→ A 'balanced' cultivation with everbearers offers perspective!

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Partners

Groente & Fruit Verkuijlen

Flevo Berry

Van den Wijngaart B.V. Aardbeienplantenkwekerij

Daar plukt u de vruchten van!

Thwan van Gennip

van der Avoird Trayplant 'Focus on detail'

Innovatiefonds Hagelunie

Interpolis. Glashelder

Bayer

De Ruiter

Genson Quality Plants

Innovation Partners

collaboration as a driving force for soft fruit innovation

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The concept: Double cropping with everbearers

- Better distribution of production and labour compared to double cropping with a junebearer
- Two production periods with a controlled plantload
  - 1st: End of August till beginning of December
  - 2nd: End of March till half July
- A Maximum of 7,5 m^3/m^2 gas for heating
- Planting in the greenhouse the second half of July
- Several different RTR-strategy's depending on crop stage
- Production goal >12-15 kg/m^2
- Sustainable cultivation (les chemicals, use of beneficial insects)

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First trial 2023

- Propagated: June 1st on trayfield
- Planting greenhouse: 21 July (23.000GDH)
- Plant density:
  - 8 pl./m¹ – 7,02 pl./m²
- Plant types:
  - Fresh plants→ continuous flower induction in the autumn
  - Trays and mini-trays
- Varieties:
  - Arabella, Karima, Favori, Florice, Malling Ace, Murano, and three coded selections.
- Making a plant capable of
  - Maintaining continuous flower initiation in autumn
  - Generating a controlled production peak in the spring
- Importance of propagation
  → decreasing light levels after planting

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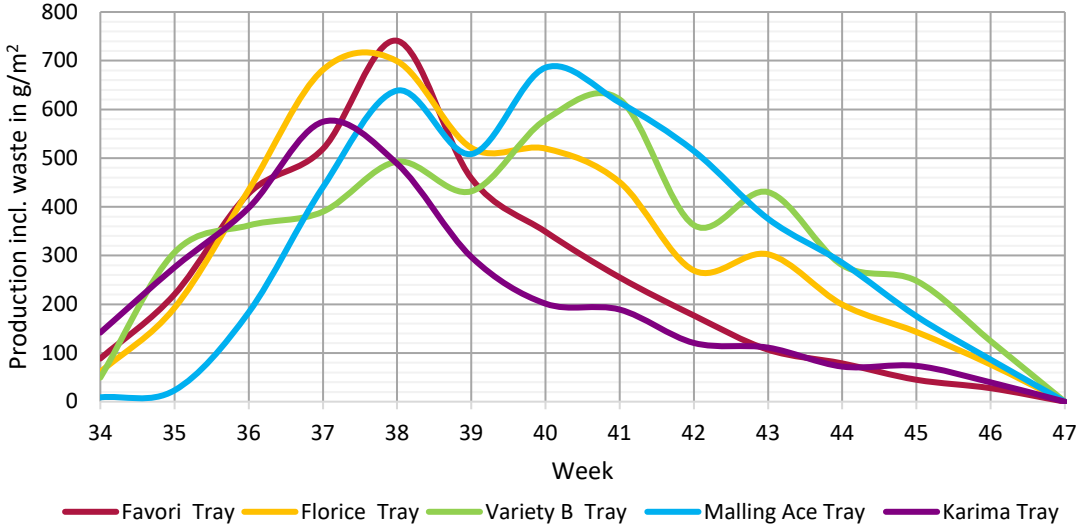
Results autumn 2023

- Best varieties ± 4,5 kg/m² in autumn (week 34 t/m 47)
- Trays performed better then mini-trays

- Challenges autumn:
  - Higher outdoor temperatures (warm autumn 2023)
  - Lower light levels

- Promising compared to Junebearer crops



- Obvious 1st peak
- 2nd 'peak' some varieties

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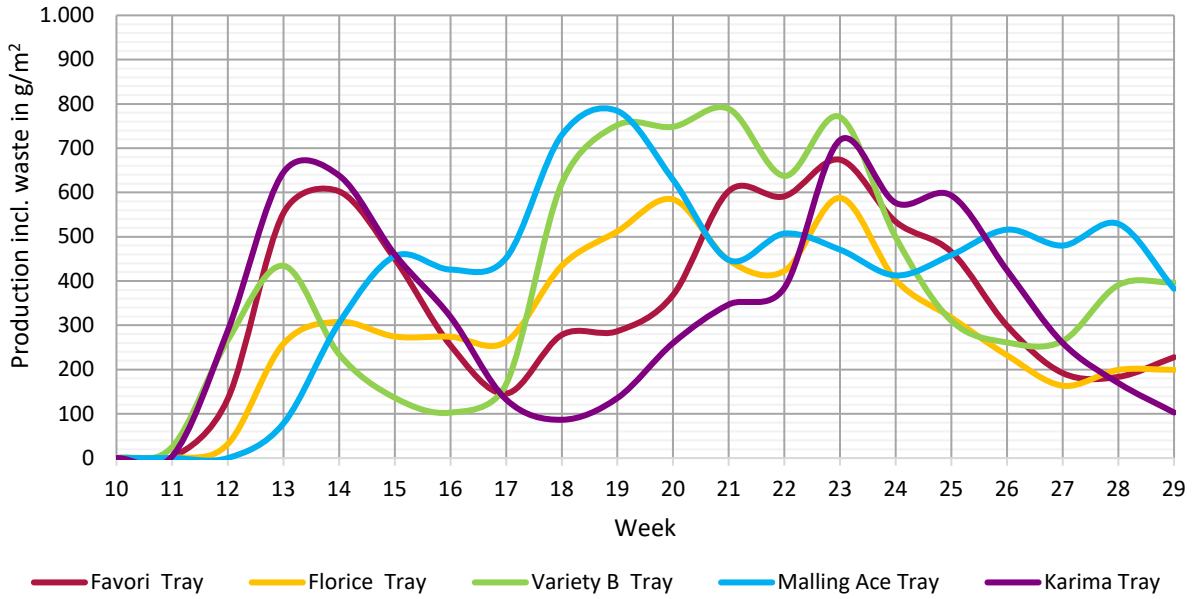
Results sping 2023

- Start heating week 3 (due to snow/frost)
- Start production ± week 12
- Best varieties around 8 kg/m² in spring
- Big
- Total production in best varieties 12,5 kg/m²
- Big differences per variety
  - Faster developing varieties
  - Slower developing varieties



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Second trial 2024-2025

- Planting greenhouse: 29 July
- Plant density:
  - 10 pl./m¹
- Plant types:
  - Fresh plants
  - Trays and mini-trays
- Varieties:
  - 9 different varieties and selections
- Truss removal trial
  - Karima and Malling Ace
  - 0 GDH - 4000 GDH - 6000 GDH - 8000 GDH after planting
- First implementation at growers

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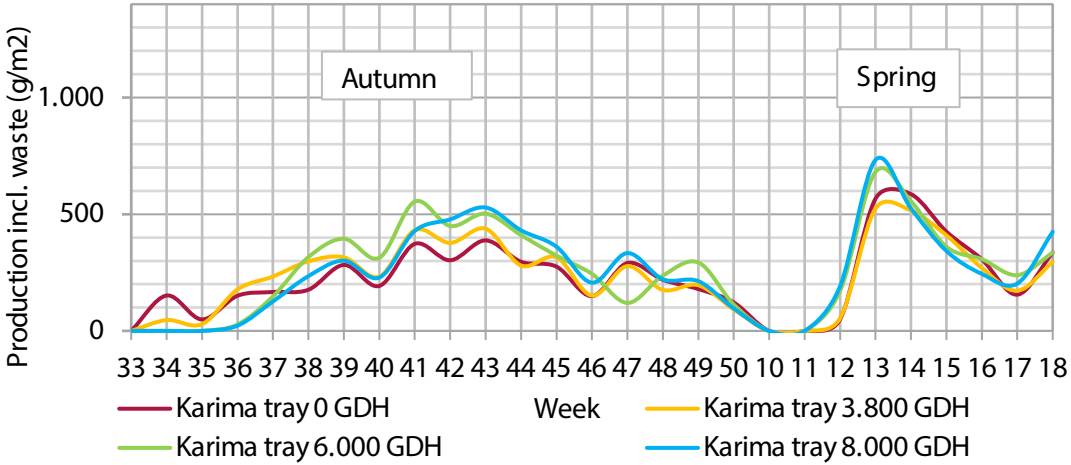
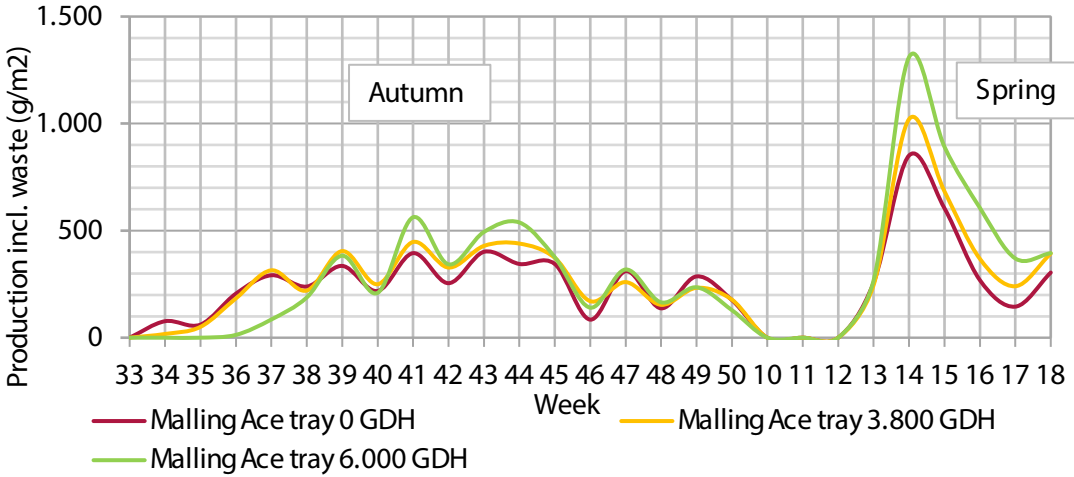
First results 2024-2025

- Clear difference in earlyness between varieties and production pattern in first trial
- Truss removal to better understand the impact on:
  - Plant load
  - Crop development





Conclusion

- Best varieties: ~12.5 kg/m² total yield
- Overall average: 9.8 kg/m² (target: 15 kg/m² not yet reached)
  - Productions in Spring can be higher
- Trays had a better production compared to mini-trays

- Truss removal trials indicates:
  - Certain varieties can be steered to maximize yield while maintaining plant balance
  - Crop control also possible via variety selection
- Clear link between autumn plant load and spring performance
- Cultivation strategies must be variety-specific for best results
- **Key Challenge**: Creating a balanced plant in autumn to ensure good spring crop development.
  - Negative energy balance has an influence on plant development in spring
  - Crop to vegetative in the spring → ideally more generative

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Thank you for your attention!

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