

ENHANCING BIOLOGICAL CONTROL THROUGH BENEFICIAL PLANTINGS

Prepared for: Covered Crops Mini Conference
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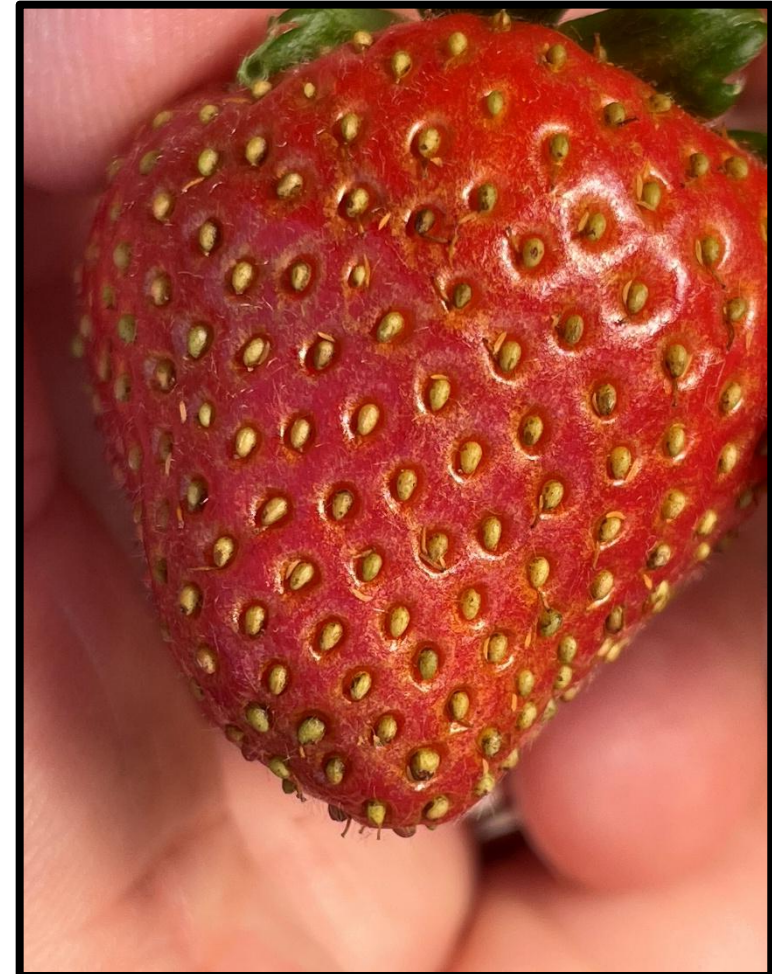


Why we started?

THRIPS.....

Increase the presence of beneficial insects

- Improve biodiversity
- Support pollination
- Strengthen natural Thrip management



Establishment of the Bio-Strips

Planted

- 1st of September 2025
- 3 strips approx. 170 m × 3.0 m
- Simple cultivation and sowing
- K-line irrigation installed

Cost

- seed mix approx \$350
- We used 30kg for our plantings
- Enough For 1 HA



What was planted?



Buckwheat



Phacelia



Alyssum



Crimson clover

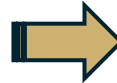
From establishment to flowering

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1 September



7 November

Predators at work

Beneficial predators were released once flowering was established.

- Green lacewings
- Persimilis
- Hyper mite
- Cucumeris
- Aphidius
- Encasia



Bee activity

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***Unforeseen benefit
was a significant
increase on Bee
activity***

What we observed

1. Increased biodiversity
2. Significant bee activity
3. Beneficials moving into tunnels such as:
 - Parasitic Wasps
 - Tasman Lacewings
 - Hover Fly's
 - Predator mites
4. Thrips present but never excessive



Crop performance outcomes



***From the block closest
to the plantings
We observed:***

- ***The lowest waste %***
- ***Highest production –
by 100gm/plant***
- ***Best harvest
performance***

Key take-aways

1. Results were encouraging enough to expand the programme from 0.2 ha to 0.7 ha this season
2. Increased honeybee activity within tunnels
3. Visually Fruits size was larger
4. Thrip numbers were significantly less



A photograph of strawberry plants with green leaves and stems. Several ripe, bright red strawberries are visible, along with several unripe, green strawberries. The plants are growing in a container, and the background is slightly blurred.

Questions?