

# FOSPHITE™

## Fall is the Time to Consider Application of Fosphite® to Established Strawberries

### Red Stele

*Phytophthora fragariae* var. *fragariae*

The causal agent of red stele is a soil-infesting fungus-like microorganism that may live many years in the soil. It is active in cool, wet weather. It attacks roots soon after fall rains begin and remains active through winter, spreading most rapidly where drainage is poor or in heavier soils. Well-drained fields are less often attacked, but low areas often show typical red stele infection. Of the seven races of this organism that have been described, five have been reported from Oregon.

**Symptoms:** The core or stele of diseased roots in winter and spring has a reddish pink tinge gradually turning a cinnamon-brown while the root's outer cortex stays white. Ultimately the diseased core turns black. Most of the plant's main roots show the symptom, but after May it is difficult to see. Lateral roots are quickly destroyed, giving main roots a rat tail appearance.



Severely diseased plants are stunted, and under certain conditions the youngest leaves take on a bluish-green tinge and lack normal glossiness. Older leaves generally turn red, orange, or yellow. Such plants eventually wilt and die.

**Chemical control:** Alternate between chemicals with different modes of action to prevent resistance. Red stele resistance to Ridomil has been detected in the major strawberry-growing areas of the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Use Fosphite Fungicide, which has multiple site mode of action, at 2-3 quarts per acre. Apply in the fall. Repeat in the spring, if necessary, when plants resume growth; continue at 30- to 60-day intervals. Fosphite has no PHI, and a 4 hour REI. Fosphite may be tank mixed in a fall herbicide program. Please check first with your advisor or your local JH Biotech sales rep.



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