

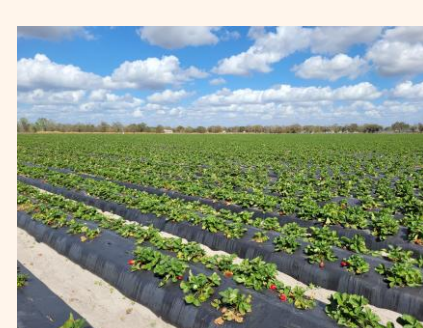
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Background

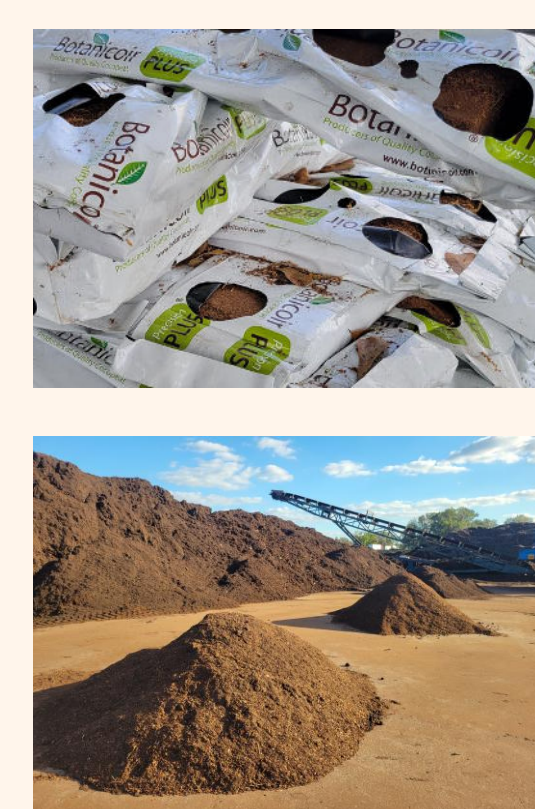
Weed, nematode, disease, and labor issues faced by strawberry farms

New production methods and alternative systems



Feasibility of developing innovative and adaptive tabletop strawberry systems in Florida for overcoming production constraints

Project Development



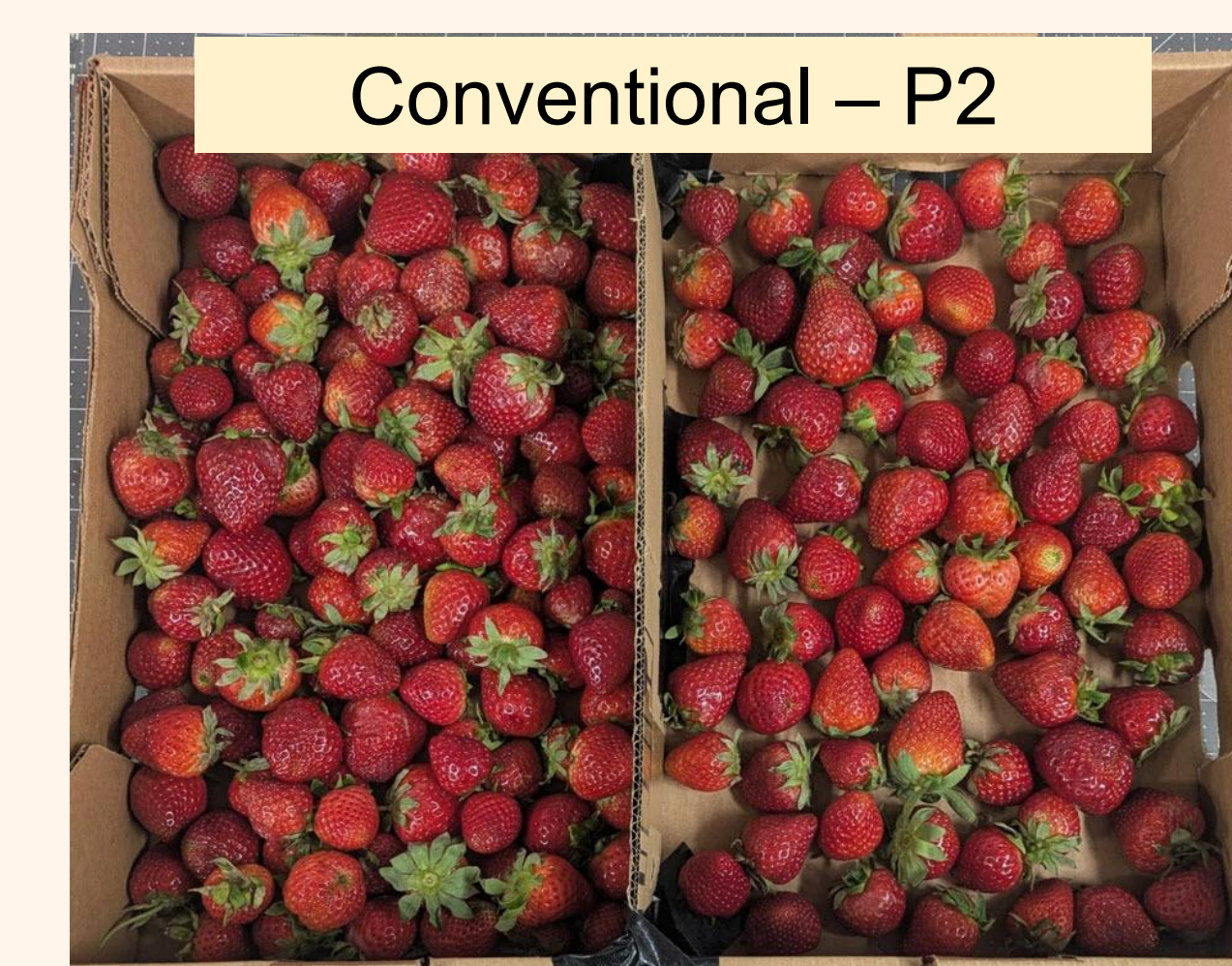
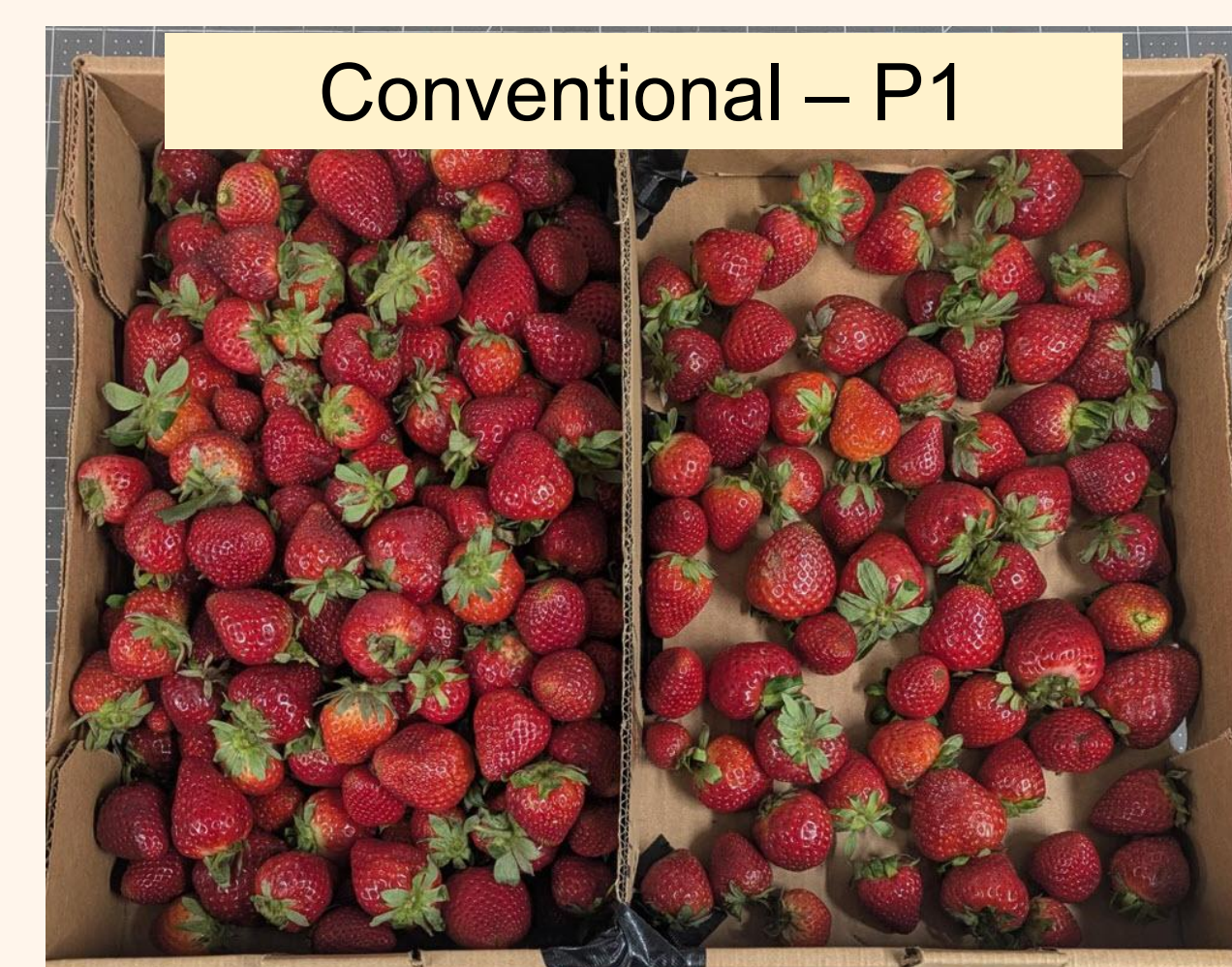
- 3-year on-farm project: 9/2024 – 9/2027
- Open-field soilless substrate-based tabletop systems
- Organic and conventional production

1. Substrate testing using locally available organic amendments: Pine bark + composts and other formulations as growing media in tabletop hydroponic strawberry systems
2. Strawberry cultivar assessment: Adaptation to tabletop hydroponic systems under organic and conventional production, respectively
3. Market potential exploration: Cost-benefit analysis; “added value” of strawberries produced in tabletop systems, consumer perception
4. Extension programming: Technology transfer and developing customizable tabletop strawberry systems

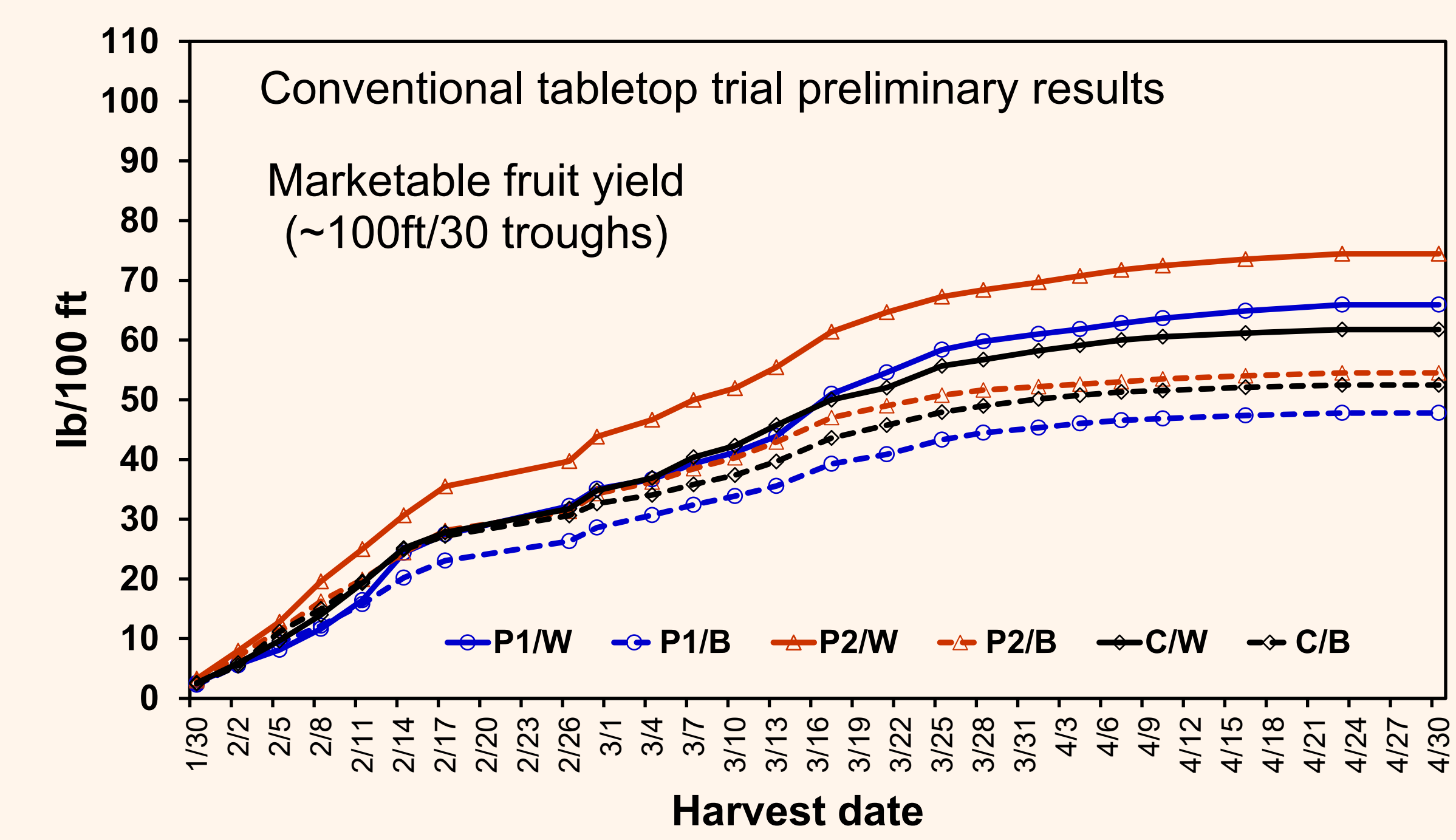
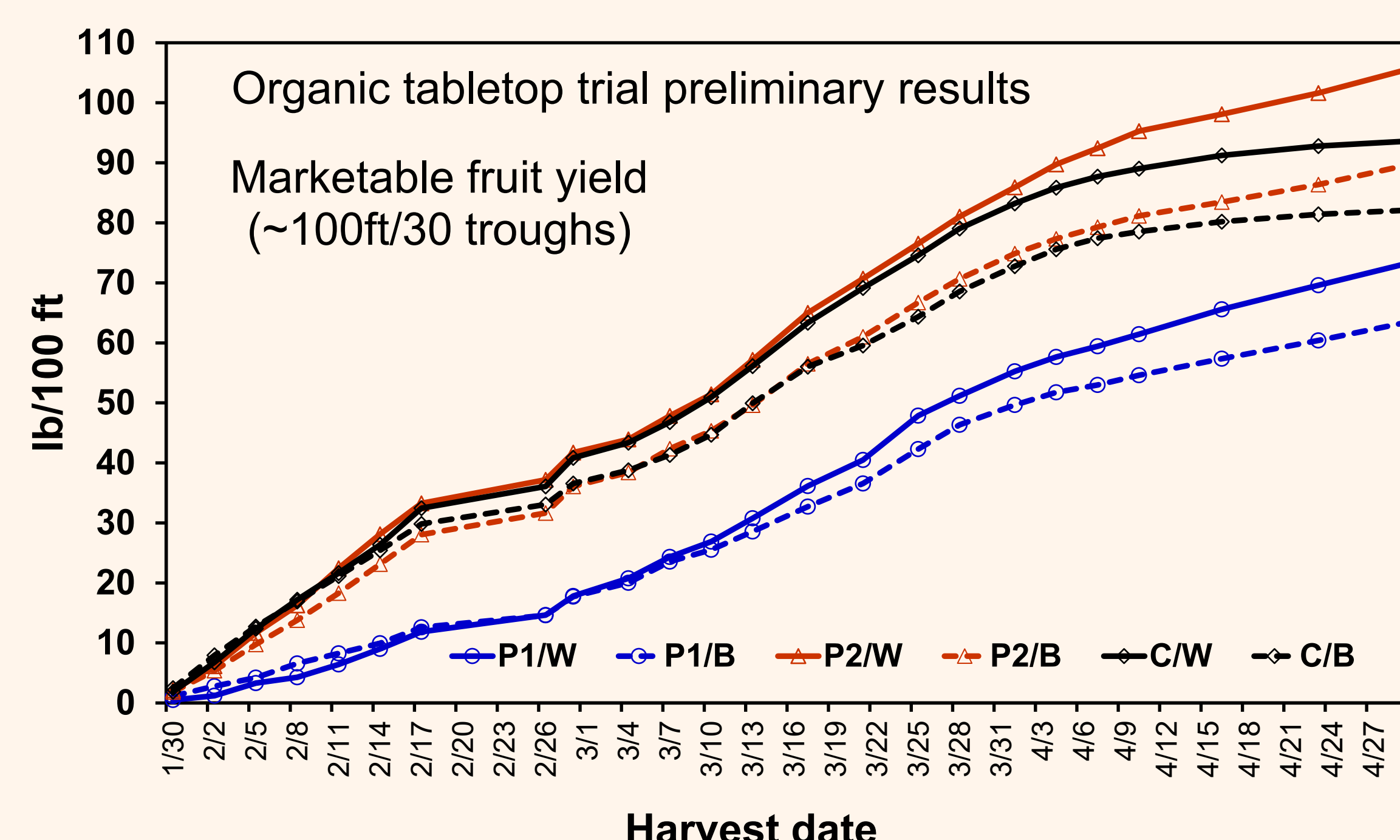
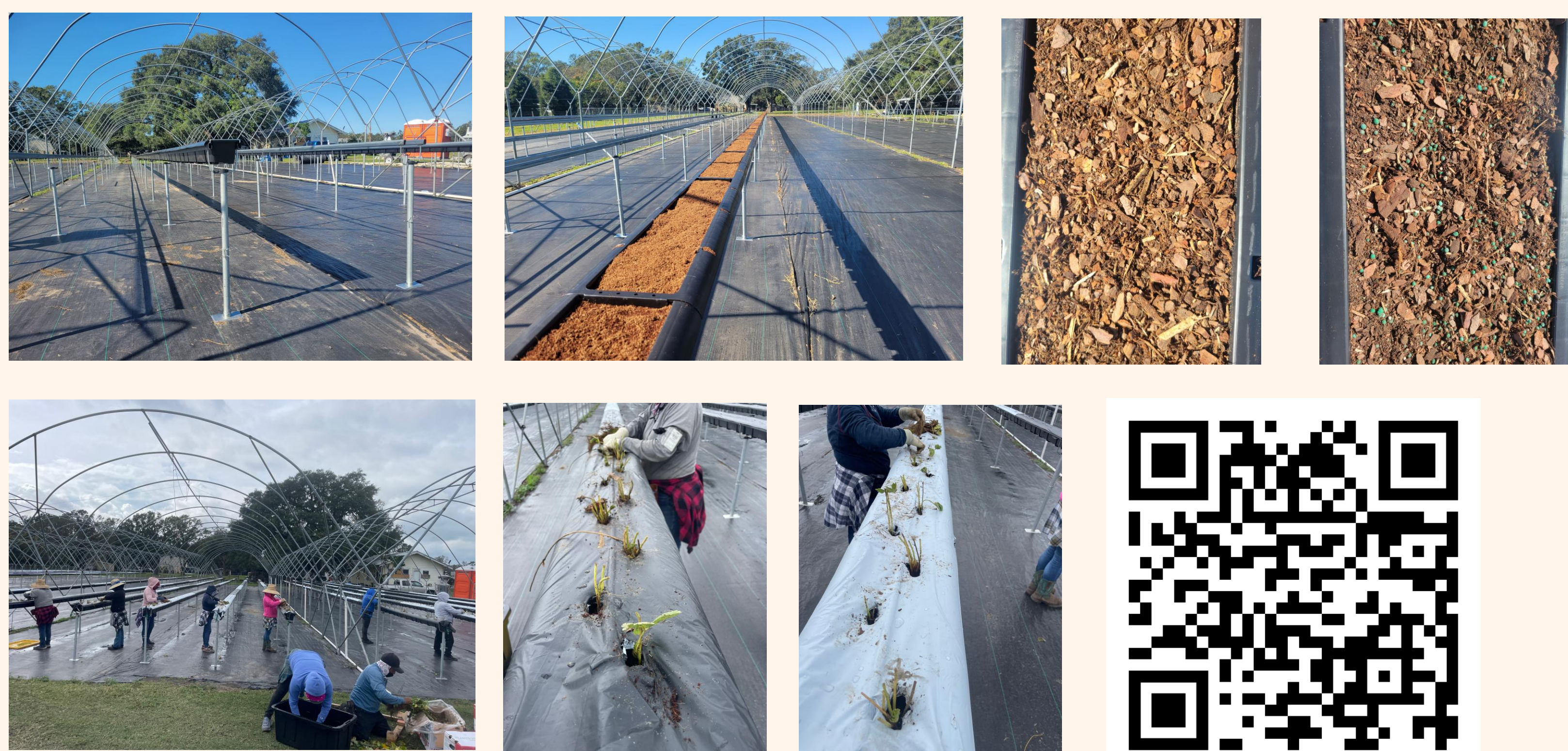
Ongoing Open-field Tabletop Strawberry Project (First Season)



Conventional – Coco coir Organic – Coco coir
White mulch Black mulch White mulch Black mulch



Conventional – P1 Organic – P1 Conventional – P2 Organic – P2
White mulch Black mulch White mulch Black mulch White mulch Black mulch White mulch Black mulch



- Detailed fruit yield and quality data analyses and final plant and substrate assessments are underway.
- Second season on-farm trials are being planned based on findings and observations from the first season and stakeholder feedback.

Acknowledgments

- Dr. Vance Whitaker and UF Strawberry Breeding Program
- Chris Falter (farm manager for Mathis Farms)
- Riley Gonzalez, Yifan Jing, Julião Couto, Tanner Girton...



- 2024 - 2025 season: Bare-root 'Encore' transplanted on 11/20/2024
- Substrate treatments: 1) Coco coir (control), 2) P1: pine bark + yard waste compost, 3) P2: pine bark + yard waste compost + vermicompost
- Plastic mulch treatments: Black vs. white in organic and conventional systems