

Date: May 29, 2008

To: The Folks at Industrial Netting

From: Robert Beck

Subject: Japanese Beetle Netting

I am writing to you to share my experience using your netting to protect my raspberries from severe damage by Japanese beetles.

Last fall the Japanese beetles nearly destroyed my crop and as you can see from the photos they are having a field day in my raspberry patch, eating each berry as it becomes ripe. It is such a disappointment and rather sickening to go out to pick and to see the total waste they create. Spraying is really out of the question as the fruit is so ripe that there is no time for the spray to break down or to wash off completely before eating.

I thought there must be some sort of netting like the bird netting I use on my strawberries that is sized for Japanese beetles. That's when I found your website and the close mesh netting you offer. Your customer service group sent me a couple of samples to evaluate and I found that the mesh spacing of .160 was just the right size. The .250 mesh, while lower cost, was just slightly too big and they could get through. As you can see from the photos the netting is very effective, providing complete protection. It is such a joy to pick perfect berries with no spray of any sort on them. My grand kids love them and I no longer worry about them eating insecticide along with the berries.

I purchased the OV 7100 mesh, which has UV inhibitors in it and is good for use in full sunlight. The roll width was 14 feet wide. This allowed enough material to go up and over and back down the other side of the row. I found that if I left the ends open the bee pollinators would go in and out freely, but the beetles were not smart enough to go in. It is important to keep the netting off the tops of the berries as the beetles will eat anything making contact with the net from the outside. I used posts with wire for the netting to lay on.

This is such an effective, safe and simple solution, I wanted others to take advantage of it. Please feel free to use the photos on your site so other gardeners can learn about this approach.

Thanks for making this material available.