

ISS2021: Growing Strawberry from the Equator to the Arctic

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The International Society for Horticultural Science's 9th International Strawberry Symposium was held virtually from 1-5 May 2021. It was originally scheduled to be held in May 2020, in Rimini in Italy, but this was cancelled due to the increasing Coronavirus epidemic last year.

Rather than reschedule again, the Symposium was held as a completely online event, including the planned technical tours of production areas in both the North and South of Italy, a virtual technical day, the Berry School, a virtual poster session and a trade exhibition.

The sessions and events were accessed via a virtual lobby, where registrants could log in to the sessions live and ask questions of the presenters. In addition, registration included access to recordings of all sessions, tours and events for 12 months. This access means participants are able to listen to all presentations, at their leisure, including those they were unable to attend live.

There were many themes covered in the presentations, including updates from breeding programs around the world, genetic resources, cultivation systems, pest and disease management, plant nutrition, sustainable production, fruit quality, post-harvest technology and health benefits.

I was lucky enough to be able to register for the Symposium, and while I had been looking forward to a trip to Italy, it is good to be able to listen to all the presentations in the concurrent sessions, which wouldn't be possible if it wasn't online. There was so much information covered over the course of the Symposium, it is not possible to summarise things in one journal article. Instead, short articles covering each of the different themes of the conference will be made available on the berries.net.au website for those who are interested, to catch up on the latest research in all things strawberry! The first of these will summarise updates in breeding programs around the world, and research in strawberry genetics.



ISS2021 Virtual lobby



Virtual plenary session



Strawberries: field grown & tunnels — virtual tour examples

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