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CURTIS MILLEN PHOTO

Late strawberries & blueberries help Millen Farms grow

It's late August and Curtis Millen is having a hard time finding ripe strawberries because most of the berries are still green.

Now that might not be unusual in California or Florida. But in Nova Scotia where the traditional strawberry season is from mid-June to late July, a strawberry crop that can be harvested until mid-October is different.

This is the first year the Millens are growing day-neutral strawberries, which can form flowers under any day-length and can keep growing as long as temperatures are suitable. "It's done globally, but it's something new for us," says Curtis.



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MILLEN FARMS Curtis and Ann Millen

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The other main fruit crop is wild blueberries, most of which are hand-raked by about 85 seasonal women workers from Jamaica. "I believe it's helping our quality," he said.

The farm, which began about 35 years ago and has 250 acres in strawberry and blueberry production, also grows strawberry nursery stock for sale to producers in Florida.