

# Suppliers of Packaging for the Strawberry Industry

Boxes, baskets, buckets, clamshells, pulp cups...there are many options for containers for strawberries! This year, the NC Strawberry Association has compiled a list of packaging suppliers to help growers get ready for the harvest season. This list was initially printed in the February/March issue of *The Strawberry Grower*, the newsletter of the NC Strawberry Association.

*The following companies are members of the NC Strawberry Association. We encourage you to support these member businesses. They are listed alphabetically.*

## Baskpac Products

24 Balmoral Court  
Kingston, Ont K7M7T1 Canada  
877-281-5435  
864-363-0340 (local rep, Larry Davenport)  
sales@baskpac.com  
www.baskpac.com  
*Plastic baskets in various sizes*

## Cottle Strawberry Nursery, Inc.

*\*2007 Strawberry Expo Sponsor\**

Sonny Cottle  
2488 N. NC 403 Hwy.  
Faison, NC 28341  
910-267-4531  
cell 919-921-0456  
www.cottlefarms.com  
*Plastic buckets*

## Industrial Container Corporation

Ron Horney  
107 Motsinger St.  
High Point, NC 27260  
336-886-7031  
ron@iccpkg.com  
www.iccpkg.com  
*Corrugated shipping trays, picking flats, 4 qt. corrugated basket w. wire handle, clamshells, pulp cups, "Baskpac" plastic baskets, and more.*

## Monte Package Company

Mike Vasta  
P.O. Box 126  
Riverside, MI 49084  
269-849-1722 or 800-653-2807  
cell 269-313-4447  
mikev@montepkg.com  
www.montepkg.com  
*Standard or modular 1 lb. clamshells, pulp quarts, shipping trays, 4-quart flats, 8-quart flats, 10-lb. picking box, custom labeling, and many other items and sizes.*

## Peninsula Packaging Company

Mark Rath, Al Fotheringham  
2540 Wilco Blvd., P.O. Box 787  
Wilson, NC 27894  
252-265-5590  
cell 724-372-5593  
mrath@penpack.net  
www.penpack.net  
*Clamshells and many other plastic containers (manufacturer), insert pads, custom labeling.*

## Southern Container Corporation

*\*2007 Strawberry Expo Sponsor\**  
James Brake, Ronnie Vlck, Harry Helmer  
PO Box 216, 6003 Ward Blvd.  
Wilson, NC, 27894  
252-237-0539 or 800-261-2295  
sales@socontainers.com  
www.socontainers.com  
*Pulp cups, shipping trays, buckets, plastic baskets, clamshells, soaker pads, picking trays, pint plastic mesh baskets, custom labeling, and more.*

## Other companies:

These companies are not current members of NCSA, but are on our lists. This list is by no means complete; there are many other sources. If you buy from any company not on this list that you think should be included, or you are a supplier who has been left off, please contact NCSA.

### C. L. Rabb, Inc. (NC)

704-865-0295, www.clrabb.com  
*Corrugated packaging, including strawberry box*

### Global Supply (CA)

w.d.franklin@att.net  
*Clamshells*

### Packaging Corporation of America (VA)

www.packagingcorp.com

### Rockford Pacghage Supply (MI)

800-444-7225, www.rockfordpack.com  
*Wide variety of items*

### Ropak Packaging (FL)

800-776-7376, www.ropakcorp.com  
*Rigid "stack & store" ventilated plastic strawberry harvesting boxes*

## Container Notes

Several growers in South Carolina are using a **half-flat box** (Monte Package Co.) for retail market. It holds four quart containers, makes a great gift box, and keeps berries from spilling in the car.

Peninsula Packaging is proud of its **Sustainability Initiatives** at its California plant. It uses recycled drink bottle scrap to make new PET containers and has a 10-acre photovoltaic "sun farm" to produce electrical power.

Exhibitors at the Southeast Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah showed off some neat "**Stack and Store**" heavy duty harvest lugs: when you stack them one way, they nest for storage, but when you turn every other box 180 degrees, they are separated and can be stacked filled with fruit. They are carried by Ropack (and maybe by other suppliers).

**Earthcycle packaging** is made of palm fiber and is 100% biodegradable/recyclable. It can be covered with PLA (cornstarch-based) film. It's a bit more expensive but would be attractive for organic products. Check with Monte Package Co.

Recycling real "**beer flats**" for berries or using other recycled boxes is not a good idea because of food safety concerns. However you can buy similar boxes new.

Do your PYO customers or harvest workers use **buckets for harvesting**? You should have a process for washing and disinfecting buckets between uses.