



GROWING STRAWBERRIES

CHOOSING PLANTING SITE

Choose a well-draining site in full sun or partial shade. If your site is poorly drained or heavy clay, build raised beds.

Strawberries can also be planted in containers or hanging baskets, but they won't be as long lived.

Fertile soil with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.8 is optimal.

Select a location where crops of strawberries, raspberries, or vegetables in the Solanaceae family have not been previously grown. Soilborne pathogens from these crops can also infect strawberry plants.

PREPARING & PLANTING

Prepare beds that are 3-4' wide. Mix in 2" of compost or well-aged manure. This is best done the Fall prior to planting or at least 2-3 weeks before planting.

Space plants 12-18" apart in a single row in center of bed.

Set the plants at the same soil level as they are in their pots.

Water the plants thoroughly immediately after planting. Strawberries should receive one to two inches of water per week.

WEED CONTROL

Weed weekly as plants establish.

In late fall, mulch with a thick layer of straw to protect plants from frost heaving. In spring, move mulch from plants into pathways to suppress weeds.

FERTILIZATION

Summer bearing varieties are best fertilized once a year after renovation. Everbearing varieties can be fertilized with a small amount of compost every 4 weeks, starting after first harvest. Over fertilizing can lead to weak plants and soft fruit.

PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Summer bearing (June-bearing) types: Produce a single large crop in June

In the first year, remove all flowers from the plants. Let 2-3 daughter plants per main plant establish, remove all other runners.

Renovation: Beginning in the second year, immediately after harvest is over, cut or mow back all foliage using mower at highest setting or clipping off leaves by hand. Thin plants to a spacing of 6-10". Then fertilize with 2" of compost or add ½ -1 cup of a balanced fertilizer (e.g. 10-10-10) per 8' bed. Water well until leaves regrow.

Everbearing (Day-neutral) types: Produce smaller crop throughout summer until frost

Remove all flowers for the first 6 weeks after planting. Remove all runners in the first year.

Everbearing varieties don't respond well to renovation and only produce for 1-2 seasons.

DISEASES & PESTS

The key to good pest management is prevention. Keep your planting free of weeds (which compete for nutrients and water, and may also harbor insects and diseases.)

The SWD fly (Spotted Wing Drosophila) is a new pest to our region and is becoming more and more wide spread. It can be helpful to harvest mature berries quickly and remove any spoiled fruit from the plants. Once fruit is harvested use quickly and store under refrigeration.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NOURSE FARM: www.noursefarms.com, look under "Growing Info", then select crop under "Grow Your Plants"

JOHNNY'S SEEDS: www.johnnyseeds.com, look under "Grower's Library", then "Fruit Library"

For more tips visit

WWW.REDWAGONPLANTS.COM