

Strawberries

Types: Strawberries can be divided into 2 types-June bearing and Everbearing. The June-bearing types produce a large crop in June and are a good choice if you want a large crop at once for freezing, canning or preserves. Ever-bearing strawberries produce a heavy crop in June and then continue to produce small amounts of berries throughout the summer.

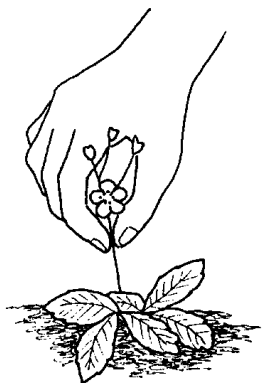
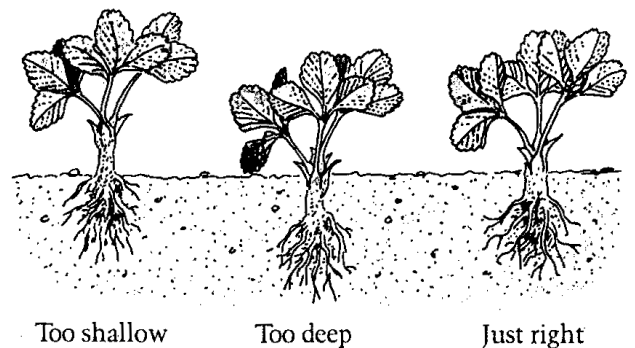
Location: Strawberries will do well in any good garden soil in a sunny location. Add plenty of compost, well-rotted manure, and peat moss to the soil before planting.

Planting: Plant in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked. Dig a hole. Place the plant in the hole and spread out the roots to their full length. Planting depth is very important. The base of the crown should be at the same level as the ground. Press the soil around the plant so the roots are firmly anchored. Plants should be spaced 1 1/2'-2' apart in rows 3 1/2-4' apart.

Maintenance: All flowers should be pinched off during the first year. An exception to this is for everbearing plants where flowers formed after midsummer can be allowed to develop into fruit. Your strawberry plants will send out runners which will form new plants. After harvest, these new plants should be thinned to be 6-8" apart. Cultivate or till between the rows keeping the rows at 18" width. In early August, remove the foliage by mowing at 3-4" height.

Planting Strawberries

Plant strawberries with the roots spread in a fan shape. Keep the crown above the soil line.



In order to encourage vigorous plant growth, remove blossom stems on first-year plants as soon as they appear.

Fertilization: Apply 2 cups of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 feet of row at the end of June and again in August.

Harvest: Once the plants begin to produce, pick the ripe berries everyday keeping the stems intact. Refrigerate them until you are ready to eat them.

Winter Care: Mulch the rows in late fall after the ground freezes with 3-4" of straw. When new leaves appear in spring, rake off the straw and use mulch between the rows for weed control.