



EDIBLE  
GARDENING  
SERIES

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# Strawberries

There is nothing that says "Hello Summer" quite like eating a juicy vine-ripened strawberry. By growing various varieties of strawberries you can pick ripe fruit from late spring until frost.

## TWO TYPES OF STRAWBERRIES

### June Bearing

- Set their flowers buds in August & September. Blooming & fruiting the following year in a 3-week period during June and July.
- Bears fruit only once each year.
- High yields with expected yield of ½ to 1 pound per foot of row during the 2nd & 3rd fruiting seasons.

### Day Neutral / Ever Bearing

- Produce fruit through out the season with an almost constant crop from late May until frost.
- Enjoy fresh strawberries for months.
- Flowers & fruit occur simultaneously from June to October.
- Moderate yields a ¼-pound to a ½-pound per foot of row in the 2nd fruiting season.

## EXPOSURE

Full sun to part sun.

## PLANTING

- Strawberries need well drained soil rich in organic matter. In poor soil create a 12-inch hill out of amended soil and plant strawberries on top.

• We recommend **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost** when planting your strawberries.

- Trim roots back 4 or 5 inches before planting.
- Planting depth is very important. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the roots with out bending them. Spread out root system.

• Mid-point of the crown should be level with the soil surface.

- June bearing strawberries are generally planted in a matt system. Plant the strawberries 15 to 20 inches apart, with the rows being 36 to 42 inches apart. Allow runners to fill in space between plants.
- Remove all flower clusters the first year. This allows the plant to form strong root system and be able to produce a larger crop the following spring. Discourage runners until August.

• Day neutral strawberries are generally planted in a hill system. They are planted 10 to 18 inches apart along top part of hill. Let runner fill in between plants. After planting remove the first blossoms appearing. This will encourage strong leaf and root development, do this until the middle of May, and then you can let them flower and fruit.

when rain does not fall. Water along the root line as overhead watering encourages fruit rot.



Too Shallow

Right Depth

Too Deep

Please turn the page for more information. ➔



## MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches of **Soil Building Compost** in the fall to protect the crowns of your strawberries during the winter.

## FERTILIZING

### New Plants

Fertilize with **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer** 2 weeks after planting, then 1 month after that, and again 1 month later.

### Established Plants

- **June Bearing:** fertilize with **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer** in late summer to promote growth.
- **Day Neutral / Ever Bearing:** make 3 or 4 applications of **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer** from spring to August.

## PRUNING

For June bearing plants, after harvest mow foliage to about 2 inches above top of the crowns, being careful not to damage the crowns. This is usually done mid-July until the first of August.

- A. remove, destroy all plant debris
- B. Thin out old and weak plants

## WATERING

Established strawberries require 1 to 1½ inches per week but may need more depending on your soil type. When watering make sure water penetrates soil to the depth of 6 to 8 inches.

Good soil moisture is very important at all times but especially

1. Just after bloom through harvest. Good watering practices ensure the berries develop a nice size and flavor.
2. From late August through early fall, when the plants resume growth and forms flower buds for the following seasons crop.

## YIELDS

1 to 2 pounds per plant or 15 to 20 pounds per 20-foot row. Yield varies greatly with culture, and the age on planting. The best yield is usually the year after planting.

Strawberries typically exhaust themselves after 4 to 5 years. We recommend starting a new planting in another location (need to rotate crops) during the last year your existing planting is fruiting. It is better to purchase plants from the nursery so that you get virus-free plants.

### CHECK LIST

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strawberry Plants                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide Root n Grow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Soil Building Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer      |   |