



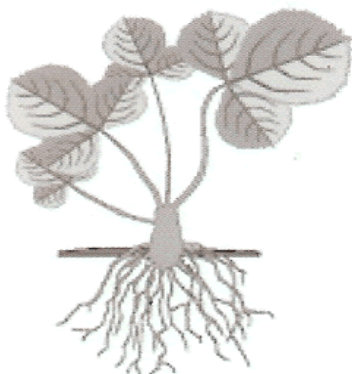
STRAWBERRIES

ANSWERS AT A GLANCE

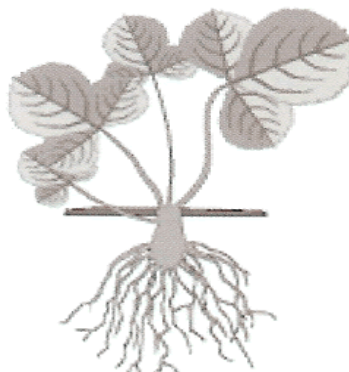
- **Spacing:** Unless otherwise noted, plant 12"–18" in the row, 3' – 4' between rows. Depth is important, see detailed strawberry guide. Roots should be planted straight down.
- **pH:** 6.5 – 6.8
- **Irrigation:** Water thoroughly after planting. Maintain good moisture throughout the season, about 1" – 2" rainfall or equivalent per week, depending on soil type.
- **Fertilization/Soil Preparation:** Mix 1/2 lb. to 1 lb. of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet into soil prior to planting. Fertilize again with 1/2 lb. 10-10-10 per 100 square feet again in July and in August.
- **Weed Control:** Prepare your site prior to planting. Remove weeds during growing season. Control weeds BEFORE they start, with a granular herbicide, such as *Strawberry and Fruit Tree Weeder*. Check with a local extension before using chemicals. Proper mulching aids in weed control.
- **Mulching:** For winter protection of the crowns, cover plants with straw after several hard frosts. Remove in early spring before new growth starts. A loose, acid-free, weed-free straw or salt hay works best. Avoid decayed or wet leaves, which can smother plants. Leave mulch between rows to keep fruit clean.
- **Renovation:** See detailed strawberry guide for June-Bearing or Day-Neutral.

PLANTING

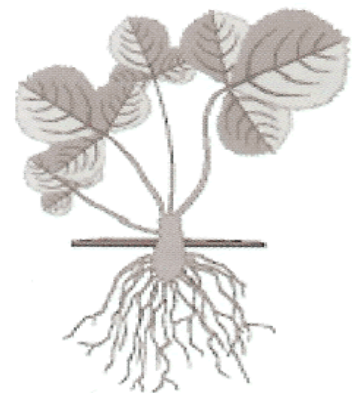
Set plants in the row with the roots straight down. Be sure that your ground is worked deep enough to accommodate for this. Care should be taken that plants are set with the middle of the crown level with the top of the soil. Within a week or so, the soil will settle and the soil line should be even with the bottom of the crown. (See illustration.) Avoid covering crowns with soil while you hoe, weed, and cultivate throughout the season.



TOO SHALLOW



TOO DEEP



CORRECT

WEED CONTROL

After planting, weekly cultivation removes weeds when they are small so they do not have a chance to compete with your plants. A scuffle hoe works well for this type of work.

FERTILIZATION

We recommend fertilizing in small quantities on a regular basis to encourage adequate growth and remove the possibility of over-fertilizing. Over-fertilizing leads to burning of plant leaves and roots, disease-prone growth and soft berries. See details for fertilization in the June bearing and/or day neutrals sections.

IRRIGATION

If irrigation is not available, select a site with good water-holding capacity (but avoiding wet soils) as strawberries do poorly under drought conditions. Plant as soon as possible when the soil moisture is good. Strawberries do best when they get 1-2 inches of rainfall or equivalent irrigation each week, depending on soil type.

MULCHING

Mulching is necessary in most northern states. A mulch prevents the quick freezing and thawing and thus mitigates fluctuating temperatures which cause crown damage that affects plant survival and crop yield. Mulch keeps fruit clean, conserves moisture, keeps down weeds, and adds humus to the soil. Mulch with any loose, acid-free and weed-free material such as salt hay or straw, after plants have started to go dormant or after 6-10 hard frosts—usually in early to late November depending on your location and the accumulation of chilling hours. Avoid materials like decayed or wet leaves that tend to mat down and can smother plants. Remove mulch from the top of the crowns in spring when the new growth starts. Leave mulch in the aisles to help keep the fruit clean and inhibit weed establishment.

JUNE-BEARERS ESTABLISHMENT YEAR

Pinch off all the flower buds the first year of growth. This allows the plant to put its energy into becoming established and will yield a larger crop the first bearing year. Fill in the rows of your strawberry plants by allowing some runners to set daughter plants. In mid to late July set 2 or 3 daughters on each side of the mother plant by lightly pressing the plantlets on the runners into the ground and tamp the soil down around the plantlet. Cut off any additional runners that form during the season. Over crowded beds will produce small berries and can have more disease problems.

SUCCEEDING YEARS

Apply 1 lb. to 1.5 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet at renovation. Side dress in July and August, the same as the establishment year.

RENOVATION

A process called 'renovation' is performed on June-bearing strawberry beds after the harvest that helps to keep plants healthy and productive over the years. Follow these simple steps:

As soon as all the berries have been harvested, mow off the leaves. Use your lawn mower set at the highest setting. Take care not to cut or injure the crowns.

Rototill the edges of the beds to narrow the bed width to 12-18 inches. Remove excess plants to leave 3-5 inches around every plant. Fertilize with 1 to 1.5 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. and water well until leaves are regrown.

Maintain adequate moisture throughout the entire growing season. We recommend the equivalent of 1-2 inches a week depending on rains and soil type. You can expect a well-managed strawberry bed to last 3-5 years.

DAY NEUTRALS OR EVERBEARING STRAWBERRIES

It is important to note with day-neutrals, the impact of hot weather can be modified with good watering practices. The cooler temperatures of autumn will bring a return of berry size and yield. Do not renovate day neutral strawberries.

DAY NEUTRALS—ESTABLISHMENT YEAR

Pinch out all the flowers for 6 weeks after setting out your plants. We also recommend that you remove all the runners during the first year. This will allow the plants to become established. You can then let the



plants set fruit from midsummer through October. We suggest 1/2 lb. to 1 lb. of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet be worked into the soil before planting. Side dress with 1/2 pound of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. feet in July and again in August, compensating for wet periods that leach away nutrients.

DAY NEUTRALS— SUCCEEDING YEARS

Side dress with 1 to 1.5 lb. of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet in the spring. Side dress in July and August the same as in the establishment year.

You can expect a bed of day-neutral plants to be productive for one to two years.