



Strawberry Growing Tips

Strawberries are named from the Old English word “strew,” describing berries scattered on the ground. These popular garden fruits require minimal space and can grow in gardens, boxes, or tubs. We recommend planting five plants per person in your home.

Varieties

Two primary types exist: June bearing and everbearing. June bearing varieties like Sequoia and Chandler produce a single high-quality crop in late spring, forming flower buds in fall and fruiting simultaneously in spring. Everbearing types such as Albion, Seascape, and Quinault produce continuously through summer and fall. First-year plants yield limited fruit, so pinch off early blossoms to promote plant growth.

Tips

- 1** Strawberries thrive in full sun and require good air circulation and water drainage. The more sun, the better, as this makes the fruit sweet.
- 2** The plants will grow in a variety of soils as long as they are on the acid side, with a preference for soil rich in organic matter. Clay and sandy soils will produce good crops with the addition of E.B. Stone Loam Builder or Azalea Camellia Gardenia Mix (2cu ft/100 sq. ft.).
- 3** Apply E.B. Stone Fruit Berry and Vine Food or All Purpose fertilizer to new beds at the rate of (1 lb./100 sq. ft.).
- 4** Space the plants 8 to 12 inches apart, with rows about 1 to 2 feet apart. Set plants with the crown above soil level and the topmost roots beneath about ¼ inch of soil.
- 5** Forest Mulch Plus will help control weeds and conserve moisture.
- 6** Strawberries require ample water, as they have shallow roots. Irrigate immediately upon planting and always keep moist during flowering and fruiting by providing frequent soakings.
- 7** Fertilize with the foods listed above in spring as growth commences and again at the end of the first flush of fruit. Avoid heavy or constant feeding as this produces more foliage than flower and overly soft fruit that will rot easily.

Winter Protection

Strawberries tolerate most temperatures, with straw, shredded paper, or row covers providing frost protection. Replace everbearing plants every two years and June bearing plants every three years to maintain productivity. Strawberries are hardy enough for all but record Bay Area cold temperatures. Straw (3-4 inches deep) is the most common, and name appropriate, winter mulch used to prevent frost injury. Shredded paper or floating row covers will also do the trick.

We'll help you grow the plants you love!

www.sloatgardens.com