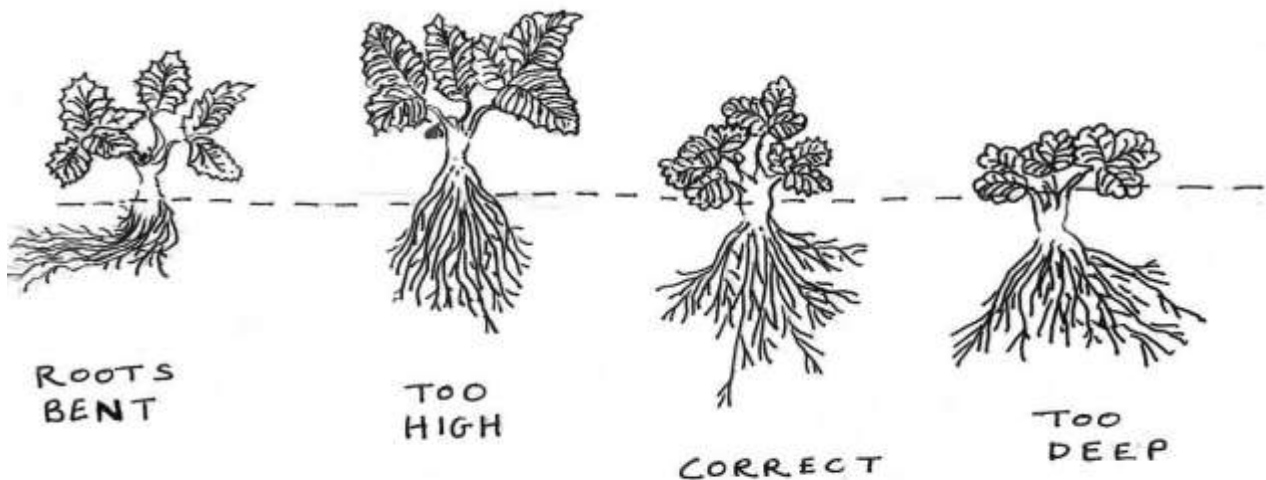


Strawberries like full sun and a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. If your space is limited, they can be used as a border or groundcover for perennial beds, or planted in containers. They love hanging baskets! When planting in the ground, plant about 12" apart. Mulch with compost to discourage weeds and conserve moisture. You can also add a layer of straw to help keep berries off of the ground. To prevent diseases, it is best not to plant strawberries where tomatoes, potatoes, bulbs, or peppers have been grown. Fertilize with an organic all-purpose or berry fertilizer when planting. Ideally, you should remove the flowers the first year to direct the plants' energy to root growth.

When planting bareroot plants, place the crown just above soil level and spread the roots out evenly. The crown is the point at which the leaves emerge. Just below the crown is an area called the "collar." The planting level should be about the middle of this collar or solid band. Planting depth is critical: if the crown is buried the plant will rot; if the roots below the collar are exposed, the plant will dry out.



Planting container-grown plants is even easier—just dig the holes so the plants end up at the same level in the ground as they were in the pots and spread the roots a bit.

Fertilize in early spring and again in early summer (after harvest, for spring crop and two crop varieties) with an all-purpose or berry organic fertilizer. Spring crop varieties should also be mowed or sheared at this time to stimulate next year's fruit set – but be careful not to damage the crowns. Most strawberry varieties produce abundant runners. Thin new plants periodically in summer and fall to about 4-5" apart, leaving only the largest and healthiest crowns. Strawberry beds typically need to be replanted every several years to maintain vigor and production.

In general, you can expect about ½ pound of berries per plant. 15 plants will yield 12-18 quarts of berries under good cultural conditions.

SPRING CROP VARIETIES

Spring crop (June-bearing) varieties produce one crop per year around June. You can expect a very heavy crop over a short period of time, making these varieties an excellent choice if you like to freeze berries or to make jams and jellies. For best results, remove all flowers the first year to encourage vigorous growth and good runner production. Once growth begins, fertilize and water well throughout the season. After berry production has stopped, cut back foliage just above the crowns. A lawn mower can be used for large beds. In the fall, thin runners so they are 3 to 5 inches apart. If possible, mow or trim tops off in January or February prior to the spring flush of growth.

Allstar Large, firm, light red fruit with sweet flavor and good shape. Excellent fresh, in pies, or for freezing. Heavy producer; vigorous plants.

Honeoye It's hard to beat this variety for abundant yields, and it has been a top choice for both farmers and home gardeners for over two decades. The medium-large berries are firm and bright red, with good keeping quality that make them well-suited to freezing. It is not known for disease resistance, but it is adaptable and vigorous. While it can adapt to various conditions, this variety will thrive especially well in lighter soils and warmer microclimates.

Sequoia Very large, dark-red, juicy fruit with sweet flavor. Excellent for dessert or freezing. Heavy producer; very long harvest for a spring-crop variety (can bear up to three months.)

EVERBEARING (TWO CROP) VARIETIES

Everbearing (two crop) varieties produce two crops per year, in June and again in late summer to fall. The fall crop is generally larger. These varieties will give you a nice supply of berries for eating fresh in June and a heavier crop in the fall for jams and jellies. Remove all blossoms the first spring until the middle of June, then let them have a fall crop. Clip off runners for the first year to promote larger fruit. Fertilize after planting when new leaves emerge. They may not need additional fertilizer in the summer (watch the leaves – if they are small and light green the plants will benefit from a small dose of nitrogen to support their longer fruiting season). Plants should be replaced every 2 years, or yields will slowly diminish.

Ozark Beauty Very popular both in commercial production and for home gardens, this versatile variety is an all-around good choice. The fruit is abundant, large, moderately firm, red all the way through, and very sweet with a strong strawberry flavor. It's a great all-purpose berry for fresh eating, canning, or freezing. While they are not the most disease-resistant variety, they are an excellent overall performer, and they are hardy and adaptable.

Quinault A northwest favorite, developed at WSU. A great choice for hanging baskets because even un-rooted runners produce fruit. High yields of large, firm, bright-red berries. Not recommended for freezing, but delicious for fresh eating or preserves. Overall good disease resistance, but susceptible to mildew.

DAY NEUTRAL VARIETIES

Day neutral varieties are often called “everbearing” because they will give you a continuous, slow and steady crop from summer to fall. (The two-crop strawberry varieties had snagged the name “everbearing” before the first day-neutral ones were developed.) For garden-to-mouth snacking all summer long, grow day neutral types! Clip off runners for the first year to promote larger fruit. Fertilize after planting when new leaves emerge. Watch the leaves in midsummer and fertilize again if they seem small or pale.

Albion This reliable northwest favorite produces uniform, large, firm, sweet berries on relatively trouble-free plants. Berries are bright red on the outside, paler on the inside, and work well fresh, frozen, or preserved. An upright growth habit and only moderate runner production make this a tidy, manageable variety for small spaces or containers. Resistant to verticillium wilt and crown rot.

Eversweet Known for its ability to produce through hot conditions, this adaptable variety will supply a continuous harvest whatever the weather. While most day neutral varieties slow down in hot midsummer weather, this one ploughs right on through. Long, cone-shaped berries are very sweet and flavorful – excellent fresh, frozen, or preserved. Moderate overall disease resistance. Produces all summer and into fall.

Seascape Adaptable, vigorous, and disease-resistant, this is a great choice for both reliable production and flavor. While some varieties require cold winters, ‘Seascape’ will survive a chill but can thrive equally well after a mild winter – making it a good choice for those in mild microclimates. High yields of large, medium-firm, very sweet berries with a beautifully glossy appearance. Especially resistant to viral diseases. Produces over a long season.

SPECIALTY VARIETIES

Specialty varieties are available only later in the planting season in 3.5” pots. (Note that some of the varieties listed above are available both bareroot in early spring and also in pots later in the season.)

Alpine strawberries Alpine strawberry, a form of everbearing European wild strawberry, has tiny (1/2” – 3/4”) pinecone-shaped berries with concentrated flavor and aroma. Most varieties produce red berries, but some may be white or yellow. Alpine strawberries do not usually produce runners. They can be tucked into the edge of a bed or in a planter where they make a nice slow-spreading groundcover. Alpine strawberries tolerate some shade; however they produce best when given full sun, rich soil, and yearly feeding.

Benton Hardy and productive in cold, wet Pacific Northwest. Medium-large fruit is bright red and sweet. Good for fresh eating and preserving. Spring crop.

Éclair Large fruit with exceptional flavor-hints of raspberry and orange. Good fresh or preserved. Superior disease resistance. Spring crop.

Elan Produces bright red flavorful fruit with nice form and color. Berries are said to be higher in Vitamin C and sugar than most everbearing varieties.

Hawaiian (AKA Pineapple Strawberry or Pineberry) Very unusual berries are white with red seeds, and possessed of an aroma and flavor reminiscent of pineapple. Small berries (1/2" - 1"), but big flavor! Everbearing.

Mary's Peak Large, firm fruit is deep red throughout. Latest to ripen. Great fresh or processed. Developed by OSU. Spring crop.

Puget Crimson Medium to large berry with balanced sweet-tart flavor. Best fresh. WSU breeding program. Spring crop.

San Andreas Large uniform fruit with excellent flavor. Good producer; berries have light red color and robust flavor. Similar to Albion but produces better, especially early in the season. Good disease resistance. Developed at the University of California at Davis. Not as cold hardy as most varieties carried by Sky; recommended for gardens with a mild microclimate. Everbearing.

Sweet Ann Large fruit with good acid-sugar balance. Tolerates partial shade. Highly disease-resistant and productive. Produced few runner. Everbearing.

Sweet Sunrise A newer variety already gaining recognition for high yields, versatility, flavor, and disease resistance. Exceptionally high yields of medium to large berries, uniform in shape and bright red inside and out. Vigorous plants have an open, upright habit that makes berries easy to harvest. Excellent fresh, frozen, or preserved. High overall tolerance to disease, and especially virus-resistant. Spring crop; early.

Temptation Nearly runnerless variety; great in planters, hanging baskets, and strawberry pots. Produces good crop of dark red, "sweetheart" type berries with good flavor. Everbearing.

Toscana Ornamental, deep rose flowers; great in planters, hanging baskets, and strawberry pots. Produces up to two pounds of dark red, sweet berries per plant. Everbearing.

Totem Hardest variety with great disease resistance. Firm conic shape; medium to dark red color, great flavor, good for processing. One of the most widely grown for jams. Spring crop.