

Sky Nursery

STRAWBERRIES

Price \$12.99/15 plants

Strawberries like full sun and a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. If your space is limited they can be used as an edging or groundcover or in hanging baskets, containers, or strawberry pots. If you have ample space, plant them 12 inches apart in rows that are 18 inches apart. Compost or manure can be used as mulch to discourage weeds and conserve moisture. To prevent diseases, it is best not to plant strawberries where tomatoes, potatoes, bulbs, or peppers have been grown.

When planting, place the crown just above soil level. The crown is the point at which the leaves emerge. Just below the crown is an area called the “collar”. 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.

In general, you can expect about ½ pound of berries per plant. 15 plants will yield 12-18 quarts of berries under ideal cultural conditions. There are three different classifications of strawberries: **SPRING CROP**, **EVERBEARING**, and **DAY NEUTRAL**.

SPRING CROP VARIETIES

SPRING CROP VARIETIES produce one crop per year in 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 when planting, remove all flowers the first year to encourage vigorous growth of the parent plant and good runner production. Wait for growth to start before fertilizing —this will eliminate the chance of root burn. Fertilize at the rate of 4 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet of area. Strawberries are not considered heavy feeders. Fertilize and water well the first season. This will promote good flower bud formation in fall for the first crop next spring. After the berry is harvested, mow the plants off with a lawn mower set just above the crowns at the soil surface. The old leaves left after harvest are going to die anyway and mowing is good sanitation and helps keep fruit rot at a minimum as the plant ages. 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. This helps prevent fruit rot.

- **BENTON:** **Very bright red**, cone-shaped, very good flavor. Excellent keeping quality. Medium to large in size and a good producer for the Northwest. Excellent winter hardiness, vigorous grower. Its upright habit makes it a good choice for the home gardener. Virus and red stele tolerant. Ripens late. Recommended for areas with heavier soils.
- **CHANDLER:** Glossy, firm fruit. Develops excellent flavor in the Pacific Northwest. High yields of medium to large fruit.
- **EARLIGLOW:** One of the earliest to ripen! High yields of deep red fruit with outstanding flavor and sweetness. Mid size. Resistant to red stele and Verticillium; cold hardy.

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- **HONEOYE:** High yields, a long season, and good disease resistance make this variety popular. Sweet large fruit has excellent crimson color. Great for jams.
- **HOOD:** **Medium to large berry** with excellent color, considered to have the best table quality since Marshall. Early. A fine preserve and jam berry. Resistant to root rot, mildew, and red stele but susceptible to virus decline transmitted by aphids. Fruit, held above foliage, is easy to pick. Sweet, great for eating fresh. **Hood was developed to resemble Marshall in quality.**
- **PUGET RELIANCE:** **From Washington State University.** High yield of very large fruit. Vigorous, virus resistant plant—easy to grow. Softer, juicier berries with good color. **Fruit comparable to Hood.**
- **PUGET SUMMER:** **From Washington State University.** High yield of large firm fruit. Full sweet flavor—rich color. Late ripening. Caps easily, so easy to process large quantities for jams or freezing.
- **RAINIER:** **A very tough virus-tolerant plant.** Best home garden variety from the standpoint of fruit quality and disease resistance. Extremely vigorous grower. Berry is bright red, very large, cone-shaped; fairly soft, excellent for fresh eating and freezing. Excellent resistance to virus decline. Fruit rests on the ground but has moderate resistance to botrytis.
- **SEQUOIA:** **Very large, dark-red fruit with sweet flavor.** Excellent for dessert or freezing. Heavy producer in home gardens.
- **SHUKSAN:** **Large, medium-firm glossy, dark-red, sweet fruit.** Excellent flavor. The best freezer berry - holds its color well after being frozen and thawed. Heavy producer, very cold-hardy, ideal for the coldest areas of the Northwest. Virus-tolerant and red stele resistant. Does not demand perfect drainage. Fruit rests on the ground but has good resistance to botrytis.
- **TILLAMOOK:** **Large berry** with large yields in its second season. Open plant with visible fruit, very easy to pick. Northwest-bred variety!
- **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.
- **VALLEY RED:** **Developed in Corvallis and named for its excellent performance in the Willamette, Skagit, and Fraser River Valleys.** Very high yields of medium sized, dark red berries with uniform shape. Sweet flavor, great for freezing and jams.

EVERBEARING VARIETIES

EVERBEARING VARIETIES produce two crops per year, in June and again in late summer to fall. The fall crop is generally larger. They will give you a nice supply of berries for eating fresh 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 treated like annuals and replaced every 1 to 2 years or yields will gradually diminish.

- **QUINAULT:** **Large soft berry, deep red with good flavor.** Good for fresh eating, desserts and preserves. Not recommended for freezing. High-yielding, vigorous. Resistant to leaf scorch, leaf spot, and root rot but is susceptible to mildew. The most popular and well known of the everbearing varieties. Produces many runners. **Everbearing variety.**

DAY- NEUTRAL VARIETIES

DAY NEUTRAL VARIETIES are also everbearing. The big difference is you will get two definite crops from an everbearer, while a day neutral variety will give you a continuous (though not heavy) crop from summer to fall.

- **ALBION:** **Large uniform fruit with excellent flavor.** Good producer; berries have rich red color and very robust flavor. Not as cold hardy as some, but resists verticillium wilt, phytophthora crown rot and some resistance to anthracnose crown rot. Recommended for home gardens with a mild microclimate.
- **AROMAS:** **Large berry** with exceptional fruit quality. Very good flavor and texture. Plant form is more erect—easy to pick. Fewer small berries produced so cull rate is lower.
- **EVERSWEET:** **Heavy producer of long conical fruit with excellent flavor.** Produces well all summer & into fall. Heat tolerant. Good commercial berry.
- **HECKER:** **Heavy producer of medium size firm fruit with excellent flavor.** Better flavor than **Tillikum**, sweeter than **Quinault**. Good commercial berry.
- **SEASCAPE:** **Outstanding flavor. Heavy producer of medium to large cone-shaped fruit.** Developed at the University of California at Davis. The berries are very good for fresh eating. Variety is not as cold hardy; recommended for home gardens with a mild microclimate. It is worth a try because it can ripen very early the spring of its second season.
- **TRIBUTE:** **Medium to large wedge-shaped fruit with tart but pleasant flavor.** Bright red skin, firm light to medium flesh. Best for fresh eating; good for processing too. Resistant to Red Stele, powdery mildew, leaf blight and leaf scorch.
- **TRISTAR:** **Produces a heavy early spring crop of small-to-medium short cone-shaped fruit.** Cool fall weather will bring larger, more elongated fruit. Fall crop is heaviest. Firm, glossy, deep-red skin with solid medium-red flesh. Excellent flavor, recommended for freezing. Good for hanging baskets. Resistant to red stele and verticillium wilt. Tolerant of leaf scorch and leaf blight. An eastern cultivar that performs well in the Northwest.