

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. They love hanging baskets. 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. Fertilize regularly with organic berry or vegetable fertilizer.

When planting bareroot plants, 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. Planting container-grown plants is easier—just dig the holes so the plants end up at the same level in the ground as they were in the pots.

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 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 more fertilizer 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.

DAY NEUTRAL VARIETIES are also everbearing. The big difference is you will get two distinct 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. Resists verticillium wilt, phytophthora crown rot and some resistance to anthracnose crown rot. Developed at the University of California at Davis.

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. Produces late into the season.

Eversweet: Heavy producer of long conical fruit with excellent flavor. Produces well all summer & into fall. Heat tolerant. Good commercial berry.

Seascape: Outstanding flavor. Heavy producer of medium to large cone-shaped fruit. The berries are very good for fresh eating and can ripen very early. 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.

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.

VARIETIES BELOW 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.) All the varieties listed below produce berries throughout the summer.

Alpine: Alpine strawberry, a form of European wild strawberry, has tiny pinecone-shaped berries with concentrated flavor and aroma. They may be either red or white (yellow). Alpine strawberries do not 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.

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 Pineberry: Very unusual berries are white with red seeds, and possessed of an aroma and flavor reminiscent of pineapple. Small berries, but big flavor!

Roman: Nearly runnerless variety with large pale pink flowers; great in planters, hanging baskets, and strawberry pots. Flavorful and highly aromatic fruit.

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

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.

Tristan: Nearly runnerless variety with ornamental magenta flowers; great in planters, hanging baskets, and strawberry pots. Produces good crop of sweet, conical berries.

Tristar: Produces a heavy early spring crop of small-to-medium short cone-shaped fruit. Cool fall weather will bring larger, more elongated fruit. The fall crop is the 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.

Lila Diamond, Lipstick, Pink Panda: varieties grown as ornamental groundcovers. These varieties produce many runners and spread readily. Flowers are bright pink to deep rose, rather like miniature wild roses; foliage is glossy green. The fruit is small but edible.