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Strawberries

Strawberries can be grown in rows or hills in the garden, or in raised beds or containers. The ease of growing and plentiful fruit make strawberries essential to your edible garden. Make sure to check out books and websites for detailed cultural methods.

Two dozen plants produce enough fruit for a family of four. There are three types of strawberry plants.

- **June-bearing** plants produce fruit the second year after planting and only in the late May/June season. This variety produces large crops of excellent quality berries and, in general, are the best varieties for fresh eating. If you want fruit the first year, plant along with a ever-bearing variety, since these June-bearing plants should not be allowed to bear fruit the first year.
- **Everbearing** strawberries produce smaller crops of smaller-sized berries in early, and late season. Total harvest is less than the June bearers. Everbearers also produce a crop the first year usually late in season. These spread much less, making Ever-bearers good for smaller containers and spaces.
- **Day-neutral** strawberries produce berries all season long. They are very productive and will give fruit the first year of planting. They are sensitive and harder to grow than the June or Ever-bearers. They are compact plants with few runners.

Plant in full sun and a well-drained soil, high in organic matter. Place plants 18" apart in rows 30-36" apart. Position the plant so crown is level with ground and spread out roots in planting hole. Carefully cover all roots, leaving crown at soil level.

In the first year, remove all flower blossoms to strengthen the plants (June-bearing). Keep your rows weed-free and the soil moisture high. Apply 3" of mulch in late fall for winter insulation. Remove mulch in spring. Apply a granular fertilizer in early spring or incorporate rotted manure each year to maintain fertility.

Varieties

June-bearing: Allstar: midseason, very productive, superior variety.

Earliglow: early season. Small to medium berries of excellent quality.

Del Marvel: Improved Surecrop. Disease resistant. Large fruit.

Primetime: Improved Guardian. Midseason. Disease resistant. Very vigorous.

Honeoye: midseason. Large fruit on vigorous, heavily matted plants.

Everbearing: Fort Laramie: Sweet high quality berries on vigorous plants

Ozark Beauty: Large sweet berries which are good for freezing. Vigorous, productive.

Day-Neutral: Tristar: Productive, hardy and vigorous. Sweet, good flavored berries.

SMALL FRUITS