

Plant strawberries in the sunniest part of your garden. They need sun most of the day to produce the highest quality berries.

Soil Preparation:

Good drainage is essential, so if you have heavy soil or clay soil plant your strawberries in a raised bed or a raised wide row to improve drainage. Add plenty of compost and mix well with native soil before planting.

Spacing:

Plant strawberries 18" apart in all directions for raised beds.
Plant spacing should be 18"-24" apart in rows with 42"-48" between rows.

Planting Instructions:

Plant strawberries in early spring. Frost will not harm the plants. The crown should be at the soil level and roots should be placed straight down into the ground, taking care to not let them curl up. Pack soil around the roots and water well. Continue watering as needed during the summer.

Fertilizing:

We recommend a balanced fertilizer blend of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur. Organic 10-10-10 vegetable fertilizers will give excellent results on strawberries. Apply fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb. per 100 sq ft. at planting time and mix well with your soil, then again in early August when plants are developing their fruit buds. In established beds, wait for growth to begin before applying fertilizer as a side dressing to avoid burning roots.

Weed control:

Weed control is essential, so cultivate your strawberry beds regularly to eliminate weeds. You can use corn gluten pre-emergent herbicide for an organic weed control once weeds have been eliminated. A layer of mulch will help too.

Caring for strawberry beds:

Everbearing varieties:

Keep all flowers picked off after planting until June 1-15. This will establish a strong root system resulting in strong plants. Plants will flower the rest of the season until frost. The original mother plants should be removed after the 2nd year, leaving the runners to produce fruit the following year. Treat the mother plants as annuals from that point on.

Spring bearing varieties:

Fertilize and water well the first year to promote good flower bud formation in the fall. The first crop will be picked the following spring. After the harvest, the plants will go into dormancy before the summer and fall growth and fruit set. After you pick the last berry in the spring, cut off all of the leaves just above the crown of each plant. This will reduce fruit rot during the next harvest. Thin runners in the fall to 3"-5" apart. If possible cut off all of the leaves again in January or February before growth starts in the spring to prevent fruit rot for the spring crop.
