



GROWING STRAWBERRIES

Strawberries require a relatively small amount of space. Each plant may produce up to one quart of fruit when grown in a matted row during the first fruiting year. Twenty-five plants will normally produce enough strawberries for an average sized family. New plantings should be established after 3 years for maximum production, since production usually declines during the second and third year.

JUNE BEARERS VS. EVERBEARING:

June bearing plants are cultured to produce a full crop the season after planting. (May to end of June). Everbearing produces a full crop the first season they are planted. June bearing has a higher yield and quality.



PLANTING SITES:

Strawberry plants require full sun. The soil should be slightly acidic, having a pH of 5.8 to 6.5. Strawberries should be planted in raised beds or on ridges, as they are sensitive to excessive soil moisture. Avoid planting strawberry plants in areas where potatoes, tomatoes, or sod were grown recently.



PLANTING AND SPACING:

When planting, make sure to cover the roots and only half of the crown with soil. Make a trench deep enough to set the roots vertically. Do not bend roots horizontally.

June bearing plants are spaced 12 to 24 inches apart. On close-spaced plants, runners are controlled by removing unwanted runners during the first season. In August, rows should be 18 to 24 inches wide with plants 6 to 8 inches apart in the row. Generally rows are 36 to 40 inches apart.

Everbearing plants are spaced 8 to 12 inches apart in the row with 30 to 36 inches between rows. Remove runners throughout the first season and remove flowers for the first 6 weeks after planting. Mulch the planting with 3 to 4 inches of straw or wood chips to conserve moisture.



FERTILIZERS:

Add fertilizer prior to planting. Apply 1 ounce (10-10-10) of actual nitrogen broadcast per 100 square feet of plant or 0.5 ounce banded 4 to 6 inches away from the plants 7 to 10 days after planting. Apply 1 to 1.5 ounces actual nitrogen broadcast in mid-June if rainfall has been



excessive and again in mid-August. In the fruiting years, apply 1 to 1.5 ounces nitrogen broadcast after harvest and again in mid-August.

VARIETIES:

Strawberry Fragaria “Ft. Laramie”: Very popular; Produces large crops; Tasty berries. Everbearing variety.

Strawberry Fragaria “Allstar”: Large, juicy berries; Harvest in late spring; June bearing variety.

Strawberry Fragaria “Honeoye”: Sweet; Firm, Good tasting berries; Harvest in early to midseason.

