

The care of Strawberries

Unpacking Instructions

Please unpack the plants immediately and as soon as possible after delivery plant them in your chosen position. If for any reason you cannot do this the plants can be kept somewhere frost free and airy. You can keep roots moist by covering them in damp compost. Soak the bare roots in cold water for an hour before planting. Ensure that your young plants are watered before planting.

Before Planting

Ensure that the ground you are intending to plant in is weed free. You can add some garden compost or a proprietary soil improver to give the plants a good start.

Planting out

- Select a position in the garden that is well drained either in full sun or partial shade. Avoid planting in full shade and any position that is prone to long periods of frost during the day. These 'frost pockets' should be avoided as flowers and small fruitlets can be susceptible to frost damage.
- Plants can be planted straight into the garden or into strawberry pots, containers or hanging baskets.
- If planting into pots using a good quality multi-purpose compost

Planting out (garden borders vegetable gardens)

Dig a hole large enough for the roots to be spread out. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole to ensure better drainage. Add a soil improver and some slow release fertilizer to the removed soil. Position the roots so that the stem is level with the surrounding soil. Back fill the hole with soil to cover the roots and firm in gently. Plant 30cm apart in rows 50cm apart.

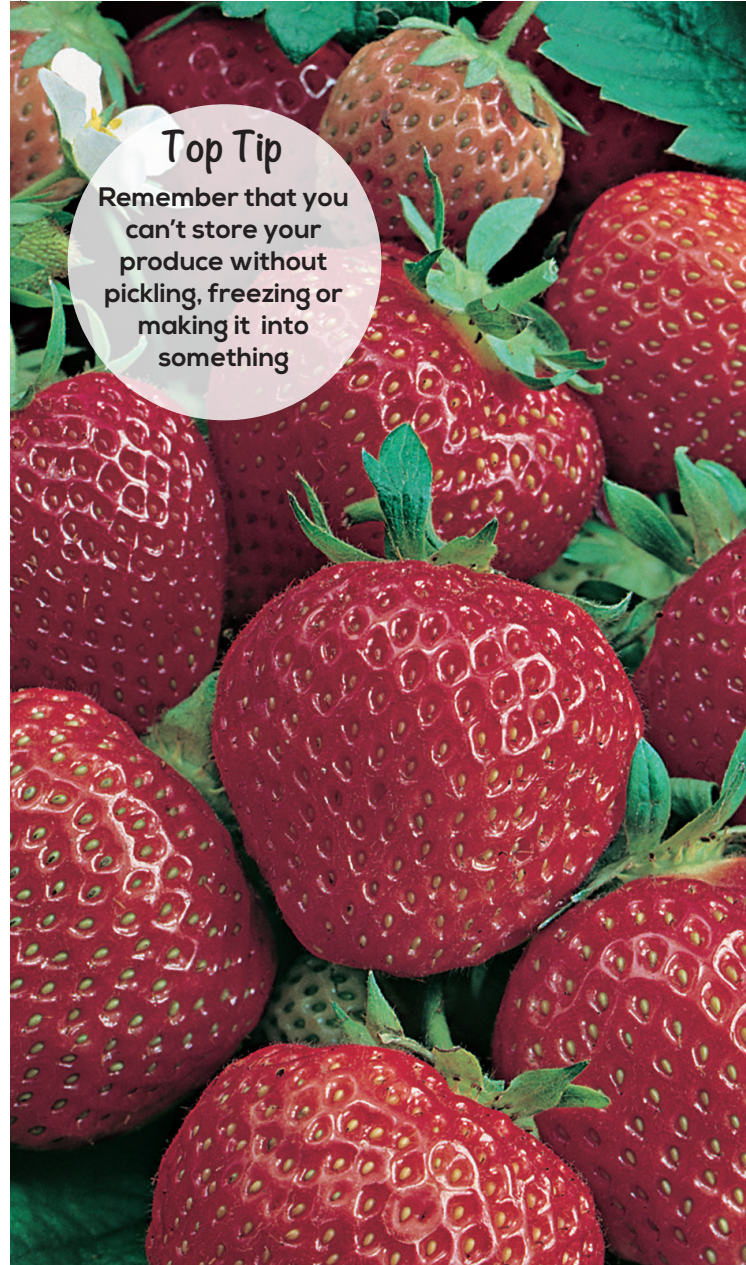
Planting in Containers

Before adding compost add a few stones around the holes at the bottom of the container to assist drainage. Add a soil improver and some slow release fertilizer to the compost. Position the roots so that the crown or stem is just below the top of the container but at the top of the compost level. It is best to leave a small gap between the compost level and the top of the container to assist in watering. Back fill the hole with compost to cover the roots and firm in gently. Add a label to show where you have planted each plant if there is little sign of the plant above the surface.

Aftercare

- During dry spells water strawberries regularly at least weekly until they are established. Particularly when fruit starts to form.
- Keep strawberry beds weed free.
- Straw can be spread around the base of the plants to retain moisture and reduce weed growth. This also prevents water splashing onto the fruit.
- Feed with a granular feed in spring and summer. You can also feed overhead with foliar feed.
- Cover strawberry plants with netting to prevent birds eating fruit during the season.
- Remove old foliage during the autumn, mulch with garden compost for a great crop next season.

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Top Tip
Remember that you can't store your produce without pickling, freezing or making it into something



Fruit

Plants ² Gardens

www.plants2gardens.com
customerservice@plants2gardens.com
Twitter: @teamp2g

gardening guide

The care of Fruit Trees

Unpacking Instructions

Please unpack the plants immediately and as soon as possible after delivery plant them in your chosen position. If for any reason you cannot do this the plants can be kept somewhere frost free and airy. You can keep roots moist by covering them in damp compost. You can also heel plants into the ground in a sheltered place until you can plant them in their final position.

Before Planting

Ensure that the ground you are intending to plant in is weed free. You can add some garden compost or a proprietary soil improver to give the plants a good start. Soak the roots in cold water for an hour before planting.

Planting out in the garden

Select a position in the garden that is well drained either full sun or partial shade. Avoid planting in full shade and any position that is prone to long period of frost during the day. These 'frost pockets' should be avoided as open flowers and the small fruitlets can be susceptible to frost damage.

Planting out

Dig a hole large a third larger than the roots and deep enough for the roots so they will not be crushed. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole to ensure better drainage. Add a soil improver and some slow release fertilizer to the removed soil. Position the tree so that it is planted at the same depth as it has been grown on the nursery. You can usually see the dark soil mark on the stem. Spread the roots out around the hole, it is better to create a small mound of soil directly underneath the tree so the roots hang downwards. Also at this time place a strong tree stake to the side of the roots, be careful not to damage them. Backfill carefully with the soil, firm in well with your heel. Shake the tree gently to

settle the soil around the roots. Ensure where a variety has been grafted to the rootstock that the graft union is 5 to 6" above the final soil level when you have finished planting.

Planting in Containers

Select a container large enough for your patio fruit tree. Before adding compost add a few stones around the holes at the bottom of the container to assist drainage. Add a soil improver and some slow release fertilizer to the compost. Position the roots so that the crown or stem is just below the top of the container but at the top of the compost level. It is best to leave a small gap between the compost level and the top of the container to assist in watering. Back fill the hole with compost to cover the roots and firm in gently. Place container in sheltered position.

Aftercare

- During dry spells water trees regularly at least weekly until they are established. Particularly when fruit starts to form.
- Weeding around the base of trees helps avoid competition for water and food. Ideally 39" (1m) around each tree best.
- Mulch around the tree to retain moisture and reduce weed growth. Try to keep mulch off the tree bark.
- Feed with a granular feed in spring and summer whilst the tree is in blossom and fruiting.

Pruning Fruit Trees

Apple and Pear trees should be pruned in the winter to keep in shape and to encourage a good crop in the following year. The best shape is to have an open goblet of around five main branches. Remove any spindly unhealthy and crossing over branches. Leaving robust branches to carry next year's crop. Once the tree reaches its desired height and spread cut back the leading branches to the required height. Plum and Cherries Need pruning in the spring to avoid infection by silver leaf disease, this is the only difference in the pruning of fruit trees. Apart from this they can be pruned exactly as above.



The care of Soft Fruit

Unpacking Instructions

Please unpack the plants immediately and as soon as possible after delivery plant them in your chosen position. If for any reason you cannot do this the plants can be kept somewhere frost free and airy. You can keep roots moist by covering them in damp compost. You can also heel plants into the ground in a sheltered place until you can plant them in their final position.

Before Planting

Ensure that the ground you are intending to plant in is weed free. You can add some garden compost or a proprietary soil improver to give the plants a good start. Soak the roots in cold water for an hour before planting.

Planting out in the garden

Select a position in the garden that is well drained either full sun or partial shade. Avoid planting in full shade and any position that is prone to long period of frost during the day. These 'frost pockets' should be avoided as open flowers and the small fruitlets can be susceptible to frost damage.

Planting out

Dig a hole large enough for the roots to be spread out. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole to ensure better drainage. Add a soil improver and some slow release fertilizer to the removed soil. Position the roots so that the stem is level with the surrounding soil. Back fill the hole with soil to cover the roots and firm in gently.

Aftercare

- During dry spells water fruit bushes regularly at least weekly until they are established. Particularly when fruit starts to form.
- Weeding around the base of bushes helps avoid competition for water and food.
- Mulch around the base to retain moisture and reduce weed growth.
- Feed with a granular feed in spring and summer whilst the tree is in blossom and fruiting.
- Cover berry bushes with netting to prevent birds eating fruit during the season.

Pruning Fruit Bushes

Prune in late autumn. Remove crossing branches to promote an open centre bush. Tidy to the height and spread required.

