

# Strawberry Planting and Care Guide

For June Bearing Strawberries (Earliglow, Jewel, and AC Valley Sunset)



## Planting Guide

1. Strawberries like a spot with full sun, but can also do well in a sunny spot that has some shade and gets 6 to 8 hours of full sun a day.
2. Plant strawberries 10" to 14" apart in a row. If you are doing multiple rows you'll want to space the rows 1.5 to 2 feet apart to create a solid bed of strawberries. Or if you would like to keep an aisle to walk between your rows, you can space your rows 3 to 4 feet apart.
3. Your strawberry plants are ready to go in the ground immediately after you pick them up from the farm. They can also stay in the pots for a little while until you are ready to plant just make sure to water them daily.
4. Dig a small hole about the size of the pot the strawberry plant is in. Place the potting soil and strawberry plant into the hole taking care to keep the roots pointed straight down.
5. Plant the strawberries at the same depth in the soil as they were in the pot.
6. Firmly tamp down the soil with your hands around each plant.
7. Water the plants immediately after planting.
8. After planting you can put down some fertilizer to help your plants get off to a good start.
9. You can mulch the areas between the strawberry plants with a light layer of straw if you like. This helps with weed control. The runners the strawberry plants put out will be able to root in the straw.

## Caring for your Strawberry Plant(s)

1. During the summer, the plants will grow lots of runners. These will take root and become new plants. If you want to keep your strawberry bed neat, you can just lift the runner before it roots and head it where like.
2. Fertilizing. Strawberries do benefit from some organic fertilizer each year.
3. Watering. Throughout the season strawberry plants need 1 to 1.5 inches of rain per week. Using a soaker hose or letting your garden hose trickle slowly works well for watering strawberries. For the first few weeks after planting pay particular attention to watering if it's not raining regularly to help the plants get established.

As the summer goes on if it's really hot and not raining, watering twice per week is good. Otherwise once per week is usually good enough.

4. Overwintering. Strawberry plants in Minnesota benefit from being covered in winter with 4 inches of straw. This helps insulate the plants from the cold weather. Cover the plants in late October once they have gone dormant.
5. In the spring, rake back the straw and leave it between the rows to help in keeping the weeds down! When to rake back the straw is always a question. Each year is different. Mid-April is a good general guideline. If it's a warm spring, early April is ok. You can look under the straw to see if the strawberry plant is sending up leaves. If it is, it is time to remove the straw. One sign in nature is the lilac buds. When the lilac buds start to swell, it's time to remove straw from the strawberries.

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For Day-Neutral Strawberries (Albion)

Planting and care of day-neutrals is the same as June bearing strawberries with a few exceptions. Day-neutrals are best grown in pots or can be planted in a garden bed following the planting instructions for June Bearing strawberries on the first page. Since they do best as annuals (they don't reliably overwinter in MN unlike June bearers), they are re-planted each year like vegetable plants. Unlike June bearing strawberries, runners are not needed, and they take energy away from fruit production. So remove runners throughout the growing season. There is no need to mulch day-neutrals with straw in late October since they don't reliably overwinter. If grown in pots, you can try to overwinter day-neutrals by moving the pots to an unheated garage or other winter storage spot that will protect them from extreme winter temps and wind. It is a good idea to water the pots a few times throughout the winter.