



2310 W St Rt 55 TROY
937.335.5550

www.andysgarden.com

STRAWBERRIES

Strawberry plants produce attractive fruit that is versatile and nutritious. Well cared for plants can be productive for up to three years. Each plant may produce up to one quart of fruit the first fruiting year. Production declines each year afterward, so it is a good idea to establish new plantings each year to maintain productivity.

Everbearing strawberry plants differ from the standard June-bearing types in that they produce a full crop the season planted. June-bearing plants are cultured to come into full production the season after planting. For best results, both Everbearing and June-bearing plants should be set in the spring.

Whether to plant Everbearing or June-bearing types is a matter of grower choice. The choice depends on the type and quality of berry desired and the length of time one is willing to wait for results. In general, the June-bearing types are most popular for the home garden and commercial use and are well worth waiting for because of their flavor

and quality. The fruits are produced all at once. Everbearing types produce small quantities of fruit throughout the early and late summer.

JUNE BEARERS

Earliglow
Sequoia
Guardian

EVER BEARERS

Quinalt
Ozark Beauty

Strawberry plants will grow and produce crops in several different types of soil. However, best results are obtained when the plants are grown in loose, fertile soils containing large quantities of organic matter, i.e. compost, peat moss, aged manure. The soil should be slightly acid, having a pH of 5.8 to 6.5. If the extent of soil acidity or fertility is unknown, it is suggested that the soil be sampled and tested. Arrangements for soil testing can be made through the County Extension office. Lime and fertilizers should be applied to should according to soil test results.

The strawberry plant is sensitive to excessive soil moisture, and one should not attempt to grow plants in poorly drained soils. Also, avoid planting strawberry plants in areas where potatoes, tomatoes or sod were grown recently. Insect and disease problems may result in serious damage in such areas. A full sun location is best.

Andy's strawberry plants are in a bundle of 25 plants per 6" pot. Gently separate the plants and plant them in the prepared soil. The base of the crown should be planted level with the soil surface. Set the plants 12" apart. Water plant in thoroughly.

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Pinch off runners of both types the first year. Pinch off all blossoms of June-bearers the first year and of Everbearers until mid- July of the first year. This directs energy to establishing roots the first growing season.

Strawberries do not require lots of fertilizer if grown in good soil. Regular applications of compost are ideal. A balanced fertilizer that lists strawberries on the label would be suitable. Follow label directions for application.

Strawberry production will be best if plants are kept moist, but never soggy for a prolonged period. A straw mulch or compost mulch is ideal for maintaining soil moisture as well as keeping berries cleaner. A mulch also helps prevent or slows down most weeds.

If birds are getting to your berries before you are, plastic netting is available to place over the plants and keep the birds out.

After several sharp freezes in the fall, apply a straw mulch 3"- 4" deep over the plants. This helps prevent heaving and protects the blossoms for next year.



*Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.*