

Strawberry Farming

There are many benefits from planting strawberries. First, strawberries are a perennial. That means the strawberry plant grows every year without having to be replanted. They do however, need to be replaced about every six to eight years with new plants. Strawberries are also easy to grow and are in high demand by the public. Strawberries are very yummy!

Strawberries are a farmer-friendly plant. There is less physical work involved with them because of a short growing season. The worst drawback is that they are susceptible to many pests and diseases. It's important that farmers buy certified disease free plants. They also need to develop an integrated pest management system for high yields.



Strawberries are tolerant of a wide variety of soils and weather conditions. They do best though in fertile, well drained soil where winters don't get too cold or the summer too hot.

Growing enough strawberries to earn a profit involves having enough land, renting or owning machinery and hiring workers. Experienced farmers will be more successful at strawberry farming than hobby gardeners.

Start off planting the strawberries in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked. Work the soil when it is dry - not wet. Plant the new strawberries in the late afternoon or on a cloudy day, covering the top of the roots with soil. After about 4 weeks, the plants will produce runners and new plants.



There are three popular systems for planting strawberries. The first one is called a space row system. This system limits the number of daughter plants that grow from the mother plant. The mother plant is planted 18 to 30 inches apart. The daughter plants are placed to root no closer than 4 inches apart. All the other runners are pulled out or cut from the mother plants. Advantages include larger berries, fewer disease problems and high yields.

The matted row system is best for June bearing plants. The strawberries are planted 18 to 30 inches apart in rows 3 to 4 feet apart. Daughter plants are allowed to root freely. They become a matted row no wider than two feet.

The hill system is best for growing everbearing strawberries. All the runners are removed so only the original mother plant remains. Multiple rows are planted in groups of 2, 3, or 4 plants about one foot apart and at about two feet between each grouping.

Strawberries need about one inch of water per week during the growing season. Do not plant strawberries where peppers, tomatoes, eggplant and potatoes have been grown. These plants could harbor verticillium wilt, a dangerous strawberry disease. For everbearing strawberries, remove their flowers until the end of June. After that, allow the flowers to remain to have fruit for summer harvest.

COLOR ME!

