

Strawberry Growing & Care Guide for Boise and Treasure Valley Gardens

*A local gardening guide from Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses
Boise, Idaho*

Strawberries grow well in Boise and throughout the Treasure Valley when planted in full sun and well-drained soil. With proper planting, fertilizing and care, strawberry plants can produce sweet, flavorful berries for several seasons.

SOIL & PLANTING LOCATION

Strawberries will produce best when planted in full sun. Fertile, well-drained soil is a must. If you have heavy clay, a good option is to make raised beds. Strawberries grow well in raised beds or containers where drainage and soil quality can be easier to control. Add plenty of organic matter such as compost to improve soil structure, fertility, and drainage. After preparing the soil, dig a hole and place the strawberry in, making sure the crown is at the soil surface and not buried. Then firm the soil around the plant and water well.

After planting, pinch off any flower buds that appear for the first few weeks. This allows the plant to produce leaves and roots so when the flowers are pollinated and begin to produce fruit there is enough energy in the plant to develop large, juicy strawberries.

SPACING

Recommended spacing is 12-18 inches per plant with 3 feet between rows.

FERTILIZING

Wait for new growth after planting, then apply a fertilizer, such as Down to Earth All Purpose (4-6-2) or Espoma Berry Tone (4-3-4).

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RUNNERS & PLANT SPREAD

As runners begin to appear, place them where you want the plants to fill in and gently press the end of the runner into the soil. This will encourage the daughter plant to root where you want it to. If the plants are running too much, simply cut them off with scissors or pruning shears. After the original mother plant has produced for a couple of seasons, some people remove the original plant and let the new daughter plants formed from the runners produce the next year's crop of berries.

TYPES OF STRAWBERRIES:

- **June Bearing:** These plants produce one large harvest in June. Strawberries from this type of plant tend to be larger and they tend to produce more daughter plants from runners than the other types of strawberries.
- **Everbearing:** These plants produce berries throughout spring, summer and fall. Berry production slows down a bit when temperatures are really hot in summer but pick back up again when it cools down in the fall. Everbearing varieties tend to not produce as many runners, which makes them ideal for space-conscious growers.

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