

LANDON'S
GREENHOUSE & NURSERY
56 LANDON LANE * 505 COLLEGE MEADOWS
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Adding Color to Your Life

STRAWBERRY TIPS

You'll find that strawberries are often labeled as day neutral, everbearing, or June bearing. June bearing types produce one large crop per year, in late spring or early summer. Plant these for preserving or freezing. Generally, June-bearing types are the highest quality strawberries you can grow.

Everbearing kinds flower and set fruit with little regard for day length. Their harvest tends to peak in early summer, and then continue on through fall.

To harvest just a few berries you can simply plant a dozen or so plants, spaced 14-18 inches apart, in a sunny patch within your flower or vegetable garden, or even in boxes or tubs on patio.

To bring in big crops, plant in rows. If soil is heavy or poorly drained, set plants in rows along raised mounds 5-6 inches high and 28 inches from center to center. Use furrows between mounds for irrigation and feeding. Set plants 14-16 inches apart.

If you have well drained soil or if furrow irrigation would be difficult, plant on flat ground, 14-18 inches apart, in rows 1 ½ feet apart. Irrigate by overhead sprinkler.

In the northwest, most gardeners set plants 2-3 feet apart in rows that are 4-5 feet apart. Let the runners fill in until plants are 7-10 inches apart. Keep additional runners pinched off.

Set plants carefully; crown should be above the soil level, topmost roots ¼ inch beneath soil level. Mulch to keep weeds down, conserve moisture, and to keep berries clean.

Feed plants 2 times a year, once when growth begins, and again after the first crop. In our area, you will want to apply a high phosphate fertilizer at planting time. Bone Meal is an excellent source. Use complete fertilizers high in phosphorus for the rest of the season. Try our Peter's Super Blossom Booster, Dyna Grow Liquid Bloom, or Miracle Grow.

Most varieties are reproduced by offset plants at ends of runners. You can (a) pinch off all runners, which will give large plants and small yields of large berries, or (b) permit offset plants to grow 7-10 inches apart or even closer, which will give heavy yields of somewhat smaller berries.