

Strawberries

There are three types of strawberry cultivars. *June-bearing* generally produce one crop of fruit around June. *Everbearing* strawberries produce two crops; one in spring and the other in fall. *Day-neutral* strawberries are also everbearing but instead of two distinct crops, they produce throughout the growing season. Their crop is largest in May through July with smaller production lasting until frost begins.

Strawberries grow best in full sun, in well-drained soil mixed with rich compost. Fertilize with a berry or all-purpose fertilizer when you plant then again annually, in April. Strawberries do equally well in the ground, in pots, and in hanging baskets; just ensure good drainage. Strawberries require thorough and consistent watering in the dry summer months but under-perform if sitting in wet, soggy soil. It is ideal in the first year to remove all of the flowers in order to promote root growth.

When planting in the ground, space 12"-15" apart. In containers, plant one plant for every 10" of pot diameter. Strawberries have shallow roots so your container does not need to be deep. For bare root plants spread the roots out evenly and place the plant so that the point where the leaves begin is just above the soil level. You should be able to see this section between leaves and roots, but no roots should be exposed. If your strawberry starts come in a pot, make the hole in your new container deep enough that the plant is buried to the same height as it was in the pot you removed it from. When berry production ends, trim off the spent foliage and thin runners. Replant strawberries every 3-5 years as your berry yields diminish.

Varieties we are carrying in 2020:

June-bearing

Hood: Bears medium to large size fruit early in the season. Bright red exterior and interior. Excellent flavor though they have a short storage time and don't freeze well. Sensitive to viruses.

Puget Reliance: Bears large fruit early to mid-season. Bright red exterior with pale red interior. Good flavor.

Rainier: Vigorously produces medium to large size fruit mid to late season. Bright red exterior and interior. Excellent flavor. Resistant to viruses.

Shuksan: Bears medium size fruit mid-season. Bright red exterior with pale red interior. Very good flavor. Freezes well. Disease resistant.

Sweet Sunrise: Bears medium to large size fruit early in the season. Bright red exterior with deep red interior. Excellent flavor.

Totem: Bears medium to large size fruit mid-season. Bright red exterior and interior. Very good flavor.

Day-neutral

Albion: Bears large fruit. Light red exterior with pale interior. Sweet, firm berries to be enjoyed fresh, frozen and preserved. Reliable production. Resistant to crown rot and verticillium wilt.

San Andreas: Bears large fruit. Light external and interior color. Mild flavor.

Seascape: Reliably produces high yields of large fruit. Bright red exterior with pale interior. Good flavor.

