

The Strawberries

Spacing - High density, 18" x 4 ft. = 7260 per acre. Normal density, 2 ft. x 4 ft. = 5445 per acre.

In some forms of bed culture 10,000 to 12,000 are often planted. This is NOT recommended for the amateur and requires instructions beyond the scope of these notes.

Planting Instructions - In the home garden strawberries make an excellent ground cover. No soil preparation is necessary if the flower bed is mulched with bark dust, saw dust, etc. Simply dig the plant in leaving the crown exposed at ground level. Never plant strawberries to a depth where the crown is buried. Avoid wadding the roots in the planting hole.

Fertilizing - Wait for growth to start to avoid burning the roots. Without a soil test we recommend a good balanced blend of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulfur. The same fertilizer that works in your vegetable garden will give excellent results on strawberries. If plants don't appear to be growing well the best reference is "Hunger in Strawberries", by Frank Johanson.

Care of The Planting

Everbearing Varieties - After planting keep all flowers picked off until June 1 - 15. This establishes a strong plant. Plants will flower and fruit the rest of the Summer and Fall until a frost occurs. The original mother plants should be rouged out after the 1st or 2nd year. Treat them like an annual.

Spring Crop Varieties - Fertilize and water well the first year to promote good flower bud formation that Fall. The first crop is picked the following spring.

After harvest the plants go dormant prior to Summer and Fall growth and fruit set. After the last berry is picked mow the plants off with a lawn mower set just above the crowns at the soil surface. The old leaves left after harvest are going to die anyway and mowing is good sanitation and helps keep fruit rot at a minimum as the planting ages.

In the fall thin runners so they are 3" - 5" apart. If possible mow tops off in January or February prior to the spring flush of growth. This helps prevent fruit rot. In our area winter rains often make mowing difficult. We do it when the ground is frozen.

Disease Control - When you receive plants from us they are Virus Free. Aphids spread virus. Rigid insect control avoids this problem. Control aphids with Diazinon. Organic gardeners may plant Rainier or Totem - these two varieties are Virus Tolerant. Strawberries are susceptible to Red Stele root rot. To avoid this problem plant strawberries in a well drained area of the garden.



Strawberry Descriptions - Everbearing Varieties

Albion- A strawberry plant known for its large to very large fruit. Fruit is mostly conical, very firm and red in color. Its flavor is very good for a day-neutral and is sweet and pleasant. It is a high yielding cultivar with robust runners and stalks. It is resistant to verticillium wilt, phytophthora crown rot and has some resistance to anthracnose crown rot.

Aromas- A strawberry plant is a day-neutral cultivar which has larger fruit and produces greater yields than Selva or Seascape. Aromas produces large quantities of late-season fruit. It also has a broader environmental tolerance and is more resistant to mildew than Selva, and is especially tolerant to spider mites. Flavor is very good. Fruit size and cull rate is superior to Selva.

Eversweet – Long, conical berries that are very sweet and very sweet and flavorful. Great for eating fresh, pies, and preserves. Eversweet is a day neutral everbearer that is heat tolerant with no loss of fruit quality. An ideal selection for the south and all across the nation. Eversweet will bear luscious berries from spring through fall.

Quinault - Washington State Release. Recommended for Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest. Does poorly in the South and not suitable for California. Large berry, firm and deep red with good flavor. Good for fresh eating, desserts, and preserves. Not recommended for freezing. High yielding, vigorous plants produce many runners, susceptible to mildew. Fruit too soft for fruit stands sales but excellent for pick your own and home gardens.

Fort Laramie - USDA release. Extremely winter hardy. Does well in colder areas except Alaska. (Alaska's long days inhibit fruit production) Also not recommended in the South. Large, bright scarlet fruit with dark pink to scarlet interior. Firm sweet flesh is exceptionally aromatic. Good for eating fresh, freezing and preserves. (Flavor a bit musty in our area) Self-fertile and pollinates in cool or warm temperatures. Vigorous; produces lots of runners and very heavy crop. Somewhat susceptible to mildew.

Hecker - Patented variety from U.C. Davis. Has commercial potential for fruit stands, etc., due to heavy production. Should perform well everywhere, including Alaska because its day neutral in regards to fruiting. Fruit medium size with excellent flavor. Similar to Brighton but more cold hardy.

Fern - Patented Day - Neutral variety has shown high yields. Always has fruit in different stages of development. Large, very firm, sweet berries. Good for fresh eating, preserves, and freezing. Should do very well all over the Midwest and Northwest.

San Andreas- SAN ANDREAS is a moderate day-neutral with a production pattern very similar to Albion. Plant vigor for SAN ANDREAS is somewhat higher than

for Albion early in the season but plant size throughout the fruiting season is similar to Albion due to its high and consistent productivity. This cultivar produces few runners in the fruiting field. The fruit for SAN ANDREAS is exceptional in appearance and especially superior to Albion early in the season. The fruit color for SAN ANDREAS fruit is slightly lighter than for Albion, and it has similar post harvest characteristics. The flavor of SAN ANDREAS is outstanding, very similar to that for Albion. SAN ANDREAS has a good disease resistance profile with no outstanding cautions. Its typically high quality fruit early in the season, together with a low chilling requirement, make this a good candidate cultivar for southern California.

Seascape - Named for a town near the Watsonville Strawberry Research Facility. The Seascape originated as a cross between Selva and Douglas and is a day-neutral similar to Selva. Seascape plants have a lower chilling requirement than Selva and are more vigorous. Highly tolerant of the virus diseases common in California, moderately susceptible to Leaf Spot. Fruit is symmetrically medium to long conic, almost as firm as Selva. Color is redder than Selva inside and out, with an attractive glossy finish. Noteworthy for high flavor, high yield, large fruit size, firmness, symmetry, attractive appearance and general flexibility in planting requirements.

Tri Star - Developed at the University of Maryland and released in 1982. Similar to Tribute but much sweeter and more aromatic. Produces a heavy, very early spring crop of small to medium short conic fruit. Cool fall weather will bring larger, more elongated fruit. Fall crop is the heaviest. Berries have firm, glossy, deep red skin with solid, medium red flesh. Fresh fruit flavor is excellent. Also recommended for freezing. Medium size plants with moderate number of runners which will bloom and bear fruit before rooted. This is a good variety for hanging baskets. Resistant to Red Stele and Verticillium Wilt. Tolerant of Leaf Scorch and Leaf Blight. Well adapted to upland areas in the south and mild areas in the East and the Pacific Northwest. Hardy in zones 5 - 8.

Tribute - Developed at the University of Maryland, introduced in 1982. Medium to large wedge shaped berries. Bright red skin, firm, light to medium flesh. Acidic but pleasant flavor. Best for fresh eating and good processing quality. Produces a good midseason Spring crop. Tribute is a medium size vigorous plant. Resistant to Red Stele, Powdery Mildew, Leaf Blight and Leaf Scorch. Tribute is widely adaptable for commercial use as well as the home gardener. Tribute size may drop in the heat of summer but will return with good flavor in the cooler fall weather. Well adapted to upland areas in the South and mild areas in the East and Pacific Northwest.

STRAWBERRIES DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING CROP VARIETIES

Benton - Oregon State University release. Named after Benton County where O.S.U. is located in Corvallis, Oregon. June bearing variety, fruit is very bright, excellent keeping quality, conic in shape, and the flavor is very good. The fruit is medium to large in size and is recommended for all parts of the Pacific Northwest. Benton appears to have excellent winter hardiness. Benton also has excellent fruit quality and vigorous growth. Upright habit makes Benton a good bet for home gardeners as well

as the commercial grower. More drought resistant than Rainier. Virus tolerant. Also tolerant to Red Stele. Ripens late.

Rainier - Washington State Release. A very tough virus tolerant plant. Best home garden variety from standpoint of fruit quality and disease resistance. Extremely vigorous grower with large floppy leaves that are ornamentally attractive. The berry is medium to large in size and conic in shape. A fairly soft berry, Rainier is excellent for fresh eating as well as processing.

Hood - Released in 1965 from Oregon State University. The large round (Globose) berry is considered to have the best table quality, now that the old Marshall (Vintage 1912) is no longer being propagated. Hood is known best as a fine preserve and jam berry, and is good for all other uses. Resistant to Root Rot, Mildew, and Red Stele but is quite susceptible to virus and should not be planted near strawberries known to be virused. Bears entire crop over a short period. Popular home garden variety. Not particularly winter hardy.

Shuksan - A Washington Release. Large and glossy bright red fruit with slightly indented yellowish red seeds. Medium firm meaty flesh with good flavor. Good for fresh eating and excellent for freezing. The plant is large and very vigorous. Also produces runners freely. Shuksan is winter hardy and tolerates Alkaline soils better than any other variety. We recommend this variety for colder areas of the Pacific Northwest above all other varieties. Shuksan is good news for Idaho, Colorado, Utah, etc.. Totem is winter hardy also, but Shuksan blooms a little later, thus protecting the fruit from late frosts. Virus tolerant and Red Stele resistant. Does not demand perfect drainage.

Chandler - Patented Variety. Fruit is long conic to long flat wedge. Glossy and very firm skin with very firm flesh. Good dessert and freezing quality. Plants are semi-erect and runner production is excellent. Susceptible to Red Stele, Leaf Spot, and Leaf Scorch. Used commercially in California. Also recommended along the Gulf Coast and Florida. A good fresh market berry that ripens early.

Sequoia - Developed by University of California. Sequoia was developed to be a shipping berry but it lacked the shelf life of a shipper. The production and berry quality were so good they released it anyway. Very large, dark red berries with real good flavor. Fair to good quality for dessert and freezing. Some nurseries list Sequoia as an everbearer but this is not strictly true even though it behaves like an everbearer in California and similar climate areas. It is actually an extremely long season Spring Crop when grown as far North as Oregon. In areas safe from early frost, Sequoia is the earliest Spring Crop on the market and it keeps bearing fruit several weeks after the typical Spring Crop is gone. Hardy in zones 6-9.

Stolo- A strawberry plant is a late-season cultivar that is well-adapted to the Pacific Northwest. Berries are very conical in shape and have bright red internal and external color. Fruit caps moderately well, so it is perhaps more suited for the local fresh market than for commercial processors. Plants have an upright growth habit and runners freely. It is resistant to strawberry root weevil.

Totem - The Totem strawberry originated in Canada. Firm, conic, bright red berry. We cannot recommend it for the home gardener except as a last resort if all other varieties have failed due to disease or cold. Totem is the hardiest, most disease resistant berry. Unfortunately the fruit turns very dark when ripe and the stem tends to fall off easily when picked. This is fine for canneries, but not acceptable for fresh market use. Totem will do well in the coldest climate a strawberry can tolerate, except it blooms earlier than Shuksan, which could cause poor fruit set on the first picking. Totem does not tolerate alkaline soils as well as Shuksan. We note this because the cold high desert country of the Pacific Northwest lacks the acid soils of Western Oregon and Washington. Any PH higher than 7 will require soil amendments like aluminum sulphate to lower the PH.

Camarosa - We recommend this berry to our Southern customers. It is very worthy of trial in the Pacific Northwest because Camarosa is a huge berry of show quality and the flavor is good. Dishes are being dressed up with edible flowers, Camarosa would make a great centerpiece embellished with those flowers -- as would many of the small fruits! Chandler has done well as a fresh market berry in the Pacific Northwest and Camarosa shows the same potential.

Puget Reliance - Recent release from Washington State. Very high yield potential. Softer juicy berries may become a home garden favorite. Large soft fruit comparable to Hood.

Puget Summer - New release. Late variety. Fruit ripens late making this a fresh market or home garden variety. Strong fruit stalks keep the fruit in the leaf canopy off the ground. Large berry, berry is larger than Totem. Sweet berry, great for eating off the vine.

Tillamook - A dual fresh and processing berry. Tillamook shows high yields of very large fruit with excellent yield and fruit size in it's second harvest. Tillamook is an open plant with visible fruit that is easy to pick.

Valley Red is a new June-bearing (short day) strawberry cultivar from the USDA-ARS breeding program in Corvallis, OR released in cooperation with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Washington State University Agricultural Research Center, and Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada. It was tested as ORUS 1790-1. Valley Red is a high-yielding cultivar that produces medium-sized fruit that are very uniform in size and shape. The fruit is easily capped and primarily suited for processing with its dark red internal and external color. Valley Red is named for its outstanding performance in the Willamette Valley in Oregon, the Skagit Valley in Washington, and the Fraser River Valley in British Columbia.

Earliglow - This cultivar is noted for its superior dessert quality. The medium-large berries are very attractive with a glossy, deep-red color. It is one of the best for eating fresh, as a frozen product, and in jams and jellies. The plants are very vigorous and productive; however, they bloom early and are subject to frost injury. The plants are somewhat disease resistant, also.

Honeoye - Introduced by the Geneva Station in 1979. Large, conic, bright red fruit with average firmness and above average quality. Flavor is tart but good. Excellent berry for freezing. High yields and a long fruiting season make this a popular commercial variety. Also excellent for pick your own operation and home gardeners. This variety is very winter hardy and vigorous. No resistance to soil diseases and susceptible to Verticillium and Red Stele. Tolerant of Leaf Spot, Leaf Scorch, and Fruit Rot. May develop off-flavor on heavy clay soils.