



HOW TO GROW STRAWBERRIES

Information provided by Little Red Nursery LLC
4415 Woodrow Rd, Lubbock TX ~ 806.795.4834

SOIL PREPARATION

Choose a site that will get morning sun and perhaps some shade in the afternoon. For the biggest berry crop, you will need to improve your soil. Strawberries do best in a well-drained soil. Add Lava Sand, which will keep the soil from compacting and will help to hold moisture. Also add a 4 to 5in layer of Back to Nature Composted Cotton Burrs or peat moss and work into the top 8in of soil.

GARDEN BED

Spread 2 cups of Tru Organic Berry Food over 10 sq ft, work into the top 3 to 6in of soil and water thoroughly.

PLANTING DEPTH

Depth of planting is important. All roots should be covered. The crown should be uncovered or the plant will be smothered and die.

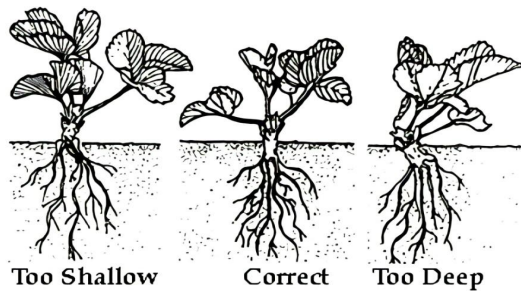


Figure 1. Set plants deep enough so all of the roots are covered, but making sure the crown is above the soil line. The plant on the left is too shallow and the one on the right is set too deep. The roots should extend straight downward

WATERING

It is desirable to use Fertilome Root Stimulator when transplanting and again 10 days later to give the transplants a good start. Fertilome Root Stimulator contains vitamin B1 which will lessen transplant shock. It also contains a hormone to start the roots growing and a mild fertilizer for plant growth. Water immediately after transplanting and water daily for a week to 10 days. Thereafter, strawberries generally require about 1in of rain or water per week during the growing season. Do not allow the plants to wilt from lack of water, buy a rain gauge.

FERTILIZATION

Fertilize twice yearly. Once when new growth appears in the spring and then a second time in early June. Apply Tru Organic Berry Food fertilizer as a side dressing around plants then lightly cultivate to work fertilizer into soil.

DE-BLOSSOMING

Many gardeners are eager to taste the first fruit from a new strawberry planting and so they allow the first flowers to develop. However, the removal of all blossoms for the first 8 to 10 weeks is the best culture practice, as it allows the plant to become properly established and thus produce better crops.

CUTTING RUNNERS

Cut off all runners as they develop. Allowing them to take root causes too much crowding and will also reduce the size of the berries.

Each strawberry plant if properly cared for, can yield approximately 1 quart of strawberries

