Strawberries

Fragaria × ananassa

Plant + grow

Crop profile



Plant type
Low perennial

Edible part
Ripe fruit

Choose June-bearing or day-neutral.

Growing conditions

Direct sun
6+ h/day
Choose an open, bright growing site.

Soil
Moist and drained
Shallow roots dislike drying or saturation.

Crown
At soil level
Do not bury the growing crown.

Spacing
System dependent
Matted rows differ from hill planting.

Adapt to the named variety and local conditions.

Choosing & planting

1. **Choose**
   Buy healthy, labeled nursery plants of the desired fruiting type.
2. **Prepare**
   Remove perennial weeds and prepare loose, well-drained soil.
3. **Set crowns**
   Spread roots below soil while keeping crowns at soil level.
4. **Establish**
   Water in and manage early flowers for the selected type.

Adapt to the named variety and local conditions.

Plant care

Moisture
Check shallow-root moisture often during dry growing weather.

Mulch
Use suitable mulch to suppress weeds and reduce soil contact.

Runners
Retain or remove runners according to the chosen growing system.

Pollinators
Remove protective covers for bee access when flowers open.

Adapt to the named variety and local conditions.

⚠ Keep crowns at soil level; manage runners for the chosen system.

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Harvest + use

Harvest & storage

Fully ripe
Let fruit reach full ripe color; early picking reduces sweetness.

Pick gently
Lift fruit by its short stem without squeezing.

Sort
Remove spoiled fruit; keep sound berries in shallow containers.

Cool
Refrigerate unwashed berries; rinse just before preparing or eating.

Adapt to the named variety and local conditions.

Fruit & kitchen use

Preparation
Use washed, fully ripe strawberries with green caps removed.

Flavor
Fully ripened fruit is sweeter than berries picked too early.

Serving
Slice prepared fresh berries into a fruit bowl or dessert.

Storage
Keep prepared portions refrigerated and use them promptly.

Use the stated ripe edible portion.

Food safety

Known crop
Use known cultivated strawberry fruit, never unidentified groundcover berries.

Wash
Rinse under clean running water before preparing or eating.

Inspect
Discard rotten fruit and harvests contaminated by animals.

Cut fruit
Refrigerate cut fruit promptly at 4°C or colder.

Adapt to the named variety and local conditions.

Plant problems

Misshapen fruit
Check pollinator access, frost injury, and signs of feeding.

Moldy berries
Remove affected fruit; check mulch, crowding, and prompt harvesting.

Wilting crowns
Check planting depth, root moisture, and drainage before watering.

Crowded declining bed
Check bed age and whether renovation or replacement is needed.

Confirm the cause; symptoms alone are not a diagnosis.

⚠ Pick fully ripe berries and rinse just before eating.