Strawberries for the Home Garden

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Native strawberries

Fragaria chiloensis (beach strawberry)
Fragaria vesca (woods strawberry)
Fragaria virginiana (mountain strawberry)

Terminology:

Crown: short compressed stem -- has a whorl of leaves and produces trusses and runners

Runner

Truss

Cap

“seeds” are called achenes

Mother plant daughter

There are 3 types of strawberries:

June-bearers:
- Crop once/year (in June)
- Produce many runners

Day-neutrals:
- Produce fruit continuously May through October
- Produce few runners

Everbearers:
- Produce fruit twice/yr June & August
- Produce few runners
- Not covering here as dayneutrals are better

Publication is revised:

“Strawberry Cultivars for Western Oregon & Washington”
Available now

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/
Cultivars (W. Oregon):
June-bearers
- Hood
- Puget Reliance
- Benton
- Shuksan
- Tolem

New cultivars to watch for:
June-bearers
- Sweet Sunrise
- Puget Crimson
- Charm
- Moore
- Sweet Bliss

Cultivars (E. Oregon):
June-bearers
- Darselect (large, excellent flavor)
- Clancy (+5 days, large, dark red, good flavor)
- Lateglow (+9 days, large, excellent flavor)
- Jewel (+10 days, large, excellent flavor)
- Ac Valley Sunset (+~10 days, good flavor)

Cultivars (all regions):
Day-neutrals
- Seascap
- Albion
- Tristar
- Tribute
- Continuous ripening (breaks in hot temperatures)

Container/greenhouse production:
Day-neutral types are best suited to greenhouse or container production

Photos: courtesy Nourse Farms

Fresh market cultivars adapted to zones 3-8 or 5-8, depending on cultivar:
- ‘Earliglow’ (early, small size, excellent flavor)
- ‘Annapolis’ (early, maintains size, good flavor)
- ‘Cavendish’ (very large, good flavor)
- ‘Honeoye’ (week later, large, good flavor)
- ‘Allstar’ (very large, excellent flavor)
In hanging baskets

You must remove runners

Plant in the spring

- Proper planting depth is very important
- Make sure roots are not exposed and growing point is not buried
- Check plants after watering them in

Proper planting depth

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/

Planting Systems:

- Plants can be established on either flat ground or raised beds (recommended)

A well-drained soil with a neutral pH, pest-free, sunny site is recommended

Planting Systems

Grow June-bearers in a “Matted Row”

- 15” in the row; 3-4’ between rows
- runners root
- Rows will form a “mat”

Planting Year

Mature matted row

Maintaining rows

- Runners will grow to fill in aisles
- Rake early-formed runners into the row
- Till or hoe to maintain aisles
Planting Systems
Grow June-bearers in a “Matted Row”

To encourage growth & runnering
- Irrigate well
- Remove weeds
- Fertilize frequently
  - total of 2 ounces Nitrogen per 100 ft of row
  - divide into thirds (2 weeks after planting; + 1 month + 1 month)

Calculating amount of fertilizer to apply:
- You need to apply 2 ounces of nitrogen (N) per 100 ft of row
- You choose a well-balanced fertilizer
- What do the numbers on the fertilizer label mean?

\[
\text{The amount of fertilizer product to apply per 100 ft row} = \left( \frac{\text{total N recommended}}{\% \text{ nutrient in product}} \right)
\]

- \(16\% = 16/100 \text{ or } 0.16\)
- \((2 \text{ oz. N/100 ft row} ÷ 0.16) = 12.5 \text{ oz. fertilizer}\)

Divide into thirds as recommended

Renovation – only done in June-bearers
Done 2 weeks after last harvest

- Mow plants just ABOVE crown
- Narrow rows (improved aisles)
- Pull weeds
- Fertilize (2 oz. N/100 ft) & irrigate

Planting Systems
Grow day-neutrals in a “Hill System”

- 12” in the row (single or staggered double rows)
- Remove runners
- Remove weeds or use plastic
- Fertilize frequently

Mature Hill Systems

- Do not renovate day-neutrals (continuous fruiting)
- May clean up some older leaves in winter, but not necessary
- Remove runners before they get too large

Strawberry plantings

- “First fruiting season” -- “year 2”
- “Second fruiting season” -- “year 3”
- “Third fruiting season” -- “year 4”
- Yield and fruit size decrease as plantings age

Planting removed after harvest

Mature hill system in winter

“Tired” field after harvest in July

Planting Year
Harvesting

- Harvest for fresh with "caps"
- Pick without caps for freezing/jam

Common Problems

Frost damage

- Normal flowers
- No fruit
- Partial frost damage to flowers
- Rowcover for frost protection
- www.commercialappeal.com

Cold damage

Crows damaged in 10 to 20 ºF range depending on time of "winter"

- Healthy crown
- Damaged/dead crown

Cold damage

- In cold regions with little winter rain, straw may be used for winter cold protection

- Use 3-4 inches of "fluffy" straw to protect from winter injury
- Place on after few hard frosts
- Remove just as spring growth starting
- Rake into aisles

Poor pollination/fruit set

Caused by:
- Cold weather
- Wet weather

Insects feeding on developing achenes

- Lygus bug

Boron deficiency may cause malformed fruit also
- Add boron to the soil in fall – rate based on B test
Fruit rot
Botrytis (gray mold)
- Very common problem
- Aggravated by dense canopy and wet weather during bloom & spring N fertilization

Anthracnose (leather rot)
- Humid, warm weather disease
- Aggravated by dense canopy

Root Rot
- Plant disease-free stock
- Avoid susceptible cultivars
- Plant on well-drained sites
- Use raised beds
- Avoid over irrigating

Leaf Spot and Scorch
Leaf Spot:
- A wet weather problem
- Not critical on leaves
- Symptoms on fruit
- “Black seed”

Leaf Scorch:
- Spots do not have gray centers
- Some cultivars sensitive
- Not worth trying to control either disease

Powdery Mildew
- Curling and “bronzing” of leaves usually not seen until late in season
- Symptoms sometimes on fruit

Root Weevils
- Hand pick adults
- Spray approved chemicals at night

Slugs
- Chickens, ducks; hand pick slugs
- Remove any hiding places
- Stale beer traps
- Caution with slug baits (for pets)
Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

Mainly a problem in late-season fresh strawberry

http://spottedwing.org/

Ornamental strawberries

Pink Lipstick

The End