Strawberries
Strawberries:

Pages 234 - 239
in your Master Gardener Handbook

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Terminology:

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

- Mother plant
- Daughter
- Runner
- Truss
- Cap
- "seeds" are called achenes
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
Cultivars: June-bearers
In order of ripening

Hood
- Early
- Large berry size
- Excellent flavor
- Poor texture for freezing
- Sensitive to virus

Sweet Sunrise
- Earliest cultivar
- Good for processing
- Good for local fresh market
Shuksan

- Mid-season
- Medium berry size
- Good flavor
- Rough shape

Totem

- Mid-season
- Large berry size
- Good flavor
- Good for freezing
Rainier

- Late-season
- Medium berry size
- Good flavor
- Nice shape

Tillamook

- High yields
- Large – very lrg berry size
- Excellent flavor
- Very good quality
- Excellent fruit size in 2nd harvest season
Puget Reliance

- Mid-season
- Large berry size
- Good flavor
- Nice shape

Benton

- Mid- to late-season
- Medium berry size
- Good for freezing
Cultivars:

Day-neutrals

Continuous ripening

Seascape

- Large - very large berry size
- Good flavor
- Firm

Albion

- Large berry size
- Good flavor
- Firm
- Good yield
Container/greenhouse production:

Day-neutral types are best suited to greenhouse or container production. Dayneutrals will fruit almost continuously in a greenhouse for off-season production.
• Containers should be 10-18” deep and 12”+ in diameter. You can plant up to 4 plants per pot in a 12” diameter pot.

• The larger the container, the more likely you’ll be able to keep the same plants for more than one growing season.

• Runners need to be removed.
Planting Systems:

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

Hill System:
- 12” in the row (single or staggered double rows)
- Remove runners
- Day-neutrals

Mature matted row
Mature hill system
Planting Systems:

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

A neutral pH, well-drained, pest-free, sunny site is recommended.
Planting Systems:

Planting Year (year 1):
- In June-bearers, remove blossoms
- In other types, remove first flush of flowers
- Remove runners in hill system (DNs)

Fruiting Seasons (years 2-4):
- In June-bearers, first fruit year 2
- Fruit size decreases year 2 to 4
- Remove plantings after year 4
Maintaining Plantings:

Renovation

- Only done in June-bearers
- Mow plants just above crown 2 weeks after last fruit harvest
- Fertilize & irrigate after mowing
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Frost damage

- Open flowers damaged < 30 °F
- Floating row covers offer some protection

Fully frost-damaged flowers produce no fruit
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Frost damage

Just the tip of this flower was damaged by frost.

Partially damaged flowers produce “nubbins”, “cat-faced”, or “monkey-faced” berries.
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Diseases - Botrytis

Most effective control for gray mold in the home garden are cultural ones:

- Keep an open canopy
- Avoid watering late in the day
- Pick diseased fruit and discard
- Renovate June-bearers and destroy leaves
- Pick any fall fruit to avoid having diseased “mummies” in the plot over winter
Common Problems in the Home Garden
Diseases - 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
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Diseases - Powdery Mildew

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

Not considered an important problem in strawberry
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Diseases - Root Rot

Weak areas in plantings and plant death

- Plant disease-free stock
- Avoid susceptible cultivars
- Plant on well-drained sites
- Use raised beds
- Avoid over irrigating
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Insects - Root Weevils

Adult feeding leads to notching on leaves

Larvae:

- Damage to plants comes from feeding of larvae on roots & crowns
Common Problems in the Home Garden

Insects - Slugs

Yuck!

- Use baits
- Control most effective if done after first heavy late-summer rain. Baiting at this time kills egg-laying adults
Insects – Spotted wing drosophila

- Eggs laid in developing fruit
- Late season crops most affected
- http://spottedwing.org/