

Strawberries

One of the most important aspects of a healthy strawberry patch is location – with a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight. Although you can get a harvestable crop with as little as six hours of direct sunlight per day, the largest harvest/best quality berries come from those plants that get the advantage of full sun. They are perennials, winter hardy and will thrive in full sunshine as long the soil is fertile and well drained. Healthy plants will produce an abundance of berries for 3-4 years, after which they should be replaced. Your strawberry bed should have good drainage and be well tilled with rich organic matter such as manure or compost to give your strawberry plants a good start with amendments again in the spring. Keep your plants well watered until they are established (but do not over-do) and up to fruiting time. Strawberries can be planted in the ground, tubs, containers or in hanging baskets.

Fragaria Itasca

This variety fruits early to early mid-season. The fruit is medium/large in size, orange-red in color with classic flavor. It is resistant to red-stele and its foliage is highly resistant to mildew. It is excellent for fresh eating, jams and pies. Grow Itasca in moist, well drained soil of good fertility. Apply a winter mulch of clean straw to help protect the crown and flower bud. (Zone 4-10)

Mature Height: 12-18"

Mature Spread: 12-15"

Growth Rate: Moderate

Hecker

This variety is ever bearing day-neutral strawberry with medium sized to small fruit. Berries of excellent flavor are produced continuously from summer to fall.

Mature Height: 12"

Mature Spread: 15"-18"

Wendy

Plant Wendy if you get hungry for those first strawberries of the season. Large, glossy red, wedge-shaped berries are firm with bright red flesh and excellent flavor. Fruit size holds from first to last pick.

Mature Height: 12"

Mature Spread: 2'-3'

Laramie

This variety has large berries with good flavor and texture – it has excellent yields and is very winter hardy. Its dense leathery foliage is resistant to leaf spot. It is an ever bearing cultivar that produces a smaller but more consistent supply of berries thru-out the growing season. (Zone 3-10)

Mature Height: 3-6"

Mature Spread: 12-15"

Growth Rate: Moderate

Mesabi

Developed by the University of Minnesota for cool summers and rough winter gardens - it is indispensable to strawberry lovers who live in the north. They tend to be a heavy June bearing, smaller fruit that is highly disease resistant. The berries are scarlet, shiny and medium to large with a good mixture of sugar and acids. (Zone 3-8)

Mature Height: 6"

Mature Spread: 24"