

OUT OF THE BOX

STRAWBERRIES

Your plants are shipped to you in a dormant state and will burst into growth after planting. This is their normal appearance upon shipment. While you may get fruit the first season, the more bountiful early and late summer crops will be heavier after the first year in the ground. Strawberries can be a bit slow to produce depending on when they are planted and individual growing conditions.



We urge you to plant your new arrivals as soon as possible. In the event planting must be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, bare root plants should be left in the poly bags and kept in a cool, dark location. A refrigerator is ideal but an unheated garage or a basement is also acceptable. Keep roots moist but not soaking wet. A spray bottle can be used to mist roots.

Upon arrival, your strawberries may have some green around the crown (top). Any green showing should be planted at the soil line. Do not cover all the green leaves if exposed.

Should the bare root plants arrive with mold, wipe the mold off with a paper towel and plant them. In the industry the mold is known as "storage mold" and is a common occurrence that rarely affects the plant.

Trim off the long, vine-like "runners" the plant produces to promote better fruiting. If left intact, your plants will put all their energy into producing these runners instead of fruit. After pinching off these "runners", plant them and they will grow into mature plants. Continue to pinch off any "runners" each growing season.

***Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.**

Thank you for your order

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

CAUTION: Not all plant material is edible.

Though most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances which can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food products should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control center at once and advise them of the plant ingested.

Keep out of reach of children.

STRAWBERRIES



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

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| LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE | Full to partial sun. Because Strawberries need full sun it is important to give containers a half-turn twice weekly. |
| USDA HARDINESS ZONES | 4 to 10. |
| PLANT TYPE | Edible/Perennial. |
| PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND | 12 inches apart in rows 12 inches apart. |
| CONTAINER SIZE | 4 plants per 12 inch or larger container. |
| MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD | 6-8 inches the first year with each plant lightly filling in a one square foot area and throwing out runners (new baby plants) in multiple directions. By the second year, each plant is thickly filling in the original one square foot area and expanding outward. |
| BLOOM TIME | Summer. |

SOIL PREPARATION

Although these plants will perform well in average garden soils of all types, we recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.csrees.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). These tests can determine if the soil needs any amendments to enhance your plants' growth and performance. See below for our recommended practice to improve your soil without any additional testing:

- 1 Spade or till the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches.
- 2 To provide nutrients and improve drainage, add organic matter to your soil by mixing in a 2 to 4-inch layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost, shredded leaves, and/or peat moss.
- 3 After active growth begins, periodically feed with a water soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables. Plants in containers need more frequent watering and feeding, especially when in active growth and bloom.

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

When planting in ground, proper depth of a plant is important. Create a shallow hole 12 inches wide and spread the Strawberry roots almost flat, adjusting the height of the crown, carefully keeping it just above ground level. Cover with soil so the bed is level and water thoroughly.



CONTINUING CARE

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| MULCHING | Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth. |
| WEEDING | Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with all plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them. |
| FEEDING | Clip off dead or unsightly growth to maintain attractive form and shape, leaving as much foliage as possible. As long as the foliage remains green it gathers sunlight and transmits energy into the root system for the following growing season. In the first year, your strawberries may produce flowers that result in a few berries. For best results, keep these blooms pinched off the first year so your plants develop a stronger root system to produce better fruit the following years |
| GROOMING | Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring. |

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plant's first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that may wet the top of the soil only.

Due to individual plant needs, geographical, and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought and extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant.

A thorough watering in late fall will greatly enhance the plant's cold tolerance.

The time to protect your plants in the garden is after the ground has frozen. At that time, apply a winter mulch of evergreen boughs, straws or leaves to prevent lifting of the plant's roots during alternating periods of freezing and thawing.

WINTERIZING

For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area, be sure to check the soil moisture every 7-10 days and water as needed.

In spring, remove the mulch from in-ground plantings and prune off any dead wood. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.