



EVERBEARING STRAWBERRIES

Site planning

Select a sunny location with loose well draining soil and mix in good compost to enrich the soil. Strawberries prefer a PH of 5.5-6.5. Strawberries can be planted in rows directly into the ground or grown in raised beds, planters, eavestrough or even hanging baskets! They are very versatile and can be adapted to fit most spaces.

Planting

To plant, dig a small hole that will accommodate the root system. When placing the plant in the hole, spread the roots out so it covers the greatest area possible and lightly backfill around the plant then pat it down. They can grow quite large so plant them about 12" apart. Your patch will continue to grow as the parent plant will self-propagate by sending out runners which form "daughter plants". Remove the flowers the first season to encourage plant growth rather than berry production.

Feeding & Watering

Everbearing strawberries perform best when they have regular water due to their shallow root system and high crown they can dry out very easily in hot weather. In dry spells be sure to supplement the rainfall with extra water for maximum growth. Topdressing your strawberries every spring with good compost is a great way to keep them growing well.

Weeding

Weeds take away nutrients and water from the strawberries so its important to keep them in check. Hand weeding is the best method to keep them down but mulching can assist in this task. Straw is a great mulch-you can even buy chopped straw at feed stores in bales which works great for placing between plants! The mulch also helps retain moisture in the soil.

Harvesting

Everbearing strawberries will generally start setting fruit mid summer and will keep producing fruit right into fall-until the weather gets too cold! Check your plants daily as the berries ripen fast!

Winter Mulching

Due to their shallow roots strawberries need extra protection from the winter conditions. Apply a thick layer of straw over your plants for the winter to insulate them from the cold then remove in spring once the danger has passed! Doing this will ensure your patch will produce for many seasons!

