



STRAWBERRIES

This versatile and tasty soft fruit is enjoyed by all, but they are often expensive to buy. Fresh picked strawberries from your own garden are sun ripened on the plant. This means the fruits are sweeter, firmer and more delicious for desserts, preserves and eating fresh. Any surplus can be frozen for later use.

Waldecks supply only Certified Plants which are free from virus diseases. Viruses result in weak, unproductive growth and low yields.

If your strawberry patch is older than 4 years, we suggest you discard the plants (burn the remains), remake the bed and plant new virus free stock. Better still choose a new site if possible. Commercial growers replant with new runners every two or three years to ensure a high level of productivity and disease reduction.

There are various methods used to grow strawberries. A pre-prepared reticulated bed, raised above normal soil level, covered with straw to reduce weed competition, gives cleaner fruit and earlier crops due to a higher soil temperature.

Use 30cm spacings. Winter planting will ensure good foliage cover and ample fruit in summer.

To prepare a strawberry patch, the beds need to be enriched with Waldecks Bio-ganic, Waldecks Pure Peat and Waldecks Premium All Purpose Plant Food. These ingredients need to be mixed thoroughly to a full spade depth. Work soil up to a fine tilth.

Where space is limited, you can grow strawberries as a low border for shrubs, in tubs, window boxes, troughs, hanging baskets, terracotta or plastic strawberry pots, flower pots or just about any plant container.

MAIN REQUIREMENTS

1. A sunny or lightly shaded area.
2. Soil improved with organic material as described above. Waldecks Slow release Plant Food is an excellent long term fertiliser with trace elements. This is best applied in early spring.
3. Space plants 30 cm apart.
4. Plant crown at soil level, not too deep or too shallow.
5. Regular watering during dry weather is essential.
6. Pick ripe fruit each day. Over ripe fruit encourages mould and reduces yield.
7. Apply Baysol or Blitzem bait to control snails and slaters.
8. Thirty to forty plants would supply sufficient fruit for most families.

Waldecks recommend you try several varieties so that you can assess the quality and suitability for your requirements and climate. Control of pests such as thrips, aphids, red spider mite, snails and caterpillars may be necessary. Fungicidal spray applications will control mildew and botrytis (grey mould).

POPULAR VARIETIES

Tioga

This is a Californian variety suitable for warm areas. The fruit is large to medium large with fairly regular shapes. The flesh is very firm, red, sweet, aromatic and of good quality. Highly recommended.

Red Gauntlet

This Scottish variety has been grown in many areas of southern Australia for its excellent, high yields. This plant is very hardy and is resistant to fungus diseases.

Fruit size varies through the cropping season. Early crops are usually medium to large or very large. Towards the end of the harvesting season, smaller fruits are common. The fruit is regular with a beautiful, shiny bright red colour.

Red Gauntlet is fairly resistant to handling and suitable for quick freezing. The flesh is reasonably firm and pink, but can be tart and aromatic.

Torrey

This Californian variety is well suited to hot climates such as we experience here in Perth. This is a vigorous grower with good colour and a tasty fruit. Torrey yields well during spring and early summer from autumn planted runners. It produces a high percentage of large and medium sized fruit. Highly recommended.

tallara

is a cross between the Californian cultivators Parker and Pajero and is a classic short day variety and crops during the period October to January. They are a very tasty fruit and best left to ripen on the bush.

lowanna

is a classic day neutral variety, which crops during October to late May. It is a compact open plant which allows for closer planting. Good fruit shape is maintained during hot weather, flesh is medium red with a lighter core.

adina

is a new short day variety. The fruit is exceptionally large with a bright red moderately glossy skin it is also low in acidity, high aroma and an intense flavour. The fruit is firm and quite juicy.