

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	5 to 8.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 12 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12 inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	8 inches tall with a 24 inch spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible berries. Everbearing. Great for eating fresh or adding to desserts.

## SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

# Thank you for your order!

'Sweet Kiss' is one of the sweetest strawberries on the market! Bearing large, deep red berries from midsummer until the first frost, these productive plants will supply your table with juicy berries all season long. Strawberries are ideal for planting in-ground, in containers or in hanging baskets on the porch or patio.

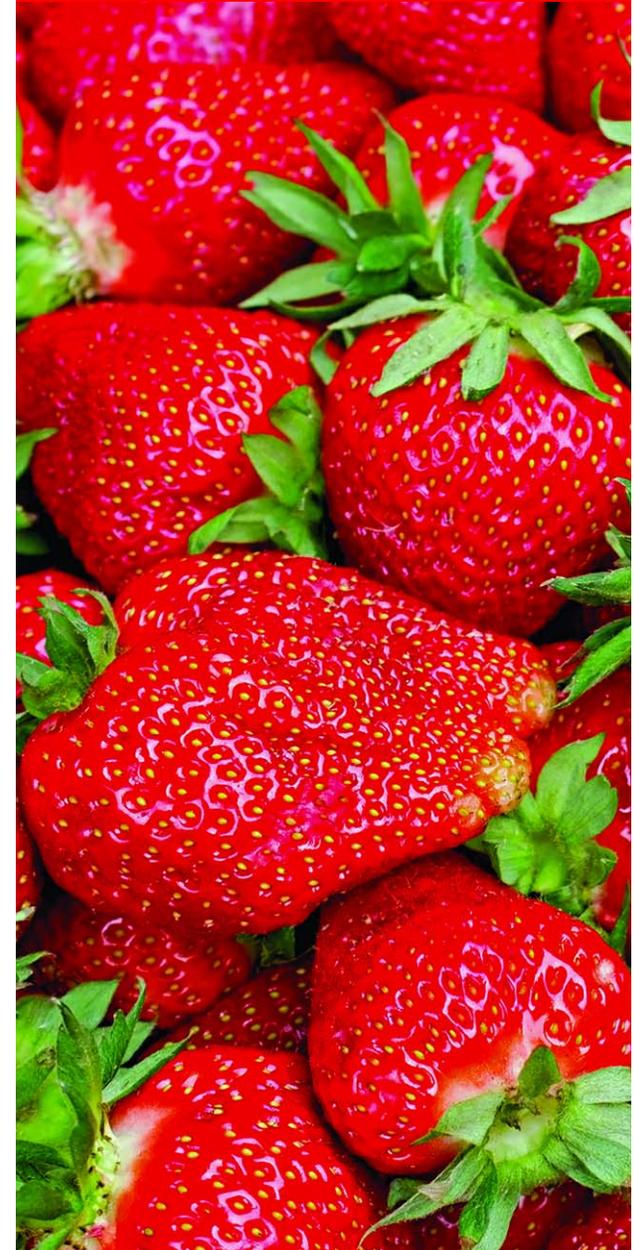
**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.**

**1-800-222-1222**

# STRAWBERRIES



\*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.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### STRAWBERRIES

Your plants have been shipped to you in bare root form. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps.

1. Place the plants in a cool, dark place such as a refrigerator, unheated garage or basement.
2. Keep the roots moist by using a spray bottle to mist them.

**Note:** Occasionally, bare root plants may arrive with a small amount of mold on them. This is caused by temperature changes encountered in shipping and does not harm the plants. As long as the bare root divisions are firm, simply wipe any mold off with a paper towel and plant them.



SHIPPED AS BARE ROOT DIVISIONS.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

**Important:** It is crucial to plant strawberries correctly. Planting too deeply can damage the crown and kill the plant.

Dig a shallow hole 12 inches wide and spread the roots flat over the soil. Carefully adjust the height of the crown to ensure it is just above ground level. Cover with soil so the planting area is level, then water thoroughly.



## CONTINUING CARE

MULCHING	Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.
WEEDING	Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.
FEEDING	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 spring.
PRUNING	In the first year, strawberries may produce flowers that result in few berries. For best results, pinch any blooms that emerge the first year to allow the plants to devote their energy to developing a stronger root system. This will result in stronger plants and better fruits in following years.
	Trim off any long, vine-like "runners" the plants produce to promote better fruiting. If left intact, the plants will devote their energy to producing runners instead of fruit. After removing the runners, plant them in the garden where they will mature and become fruit-bearing plants.
HARVESTING	After the foliage has died back in late fall, cut each plant back to four inches or less. New growth will emerge as spring temperatures rise.
	Pick strawberries when the fruits have changed from green to red but still feel firm. Cut or pinch the stems to remove the berries from the plant without pulling. After picking, store the berries in the refrigerator and do not wash them until you are ready to use them. The sweet, nutritious berries can be eaten fresh, preserved or used for cooking. Do not consume any other part of the plant.

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WATERING	Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.
	Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.
WINTERIZING	Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.
	Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.
WATERING	The time to winterize your plants is in late fall. When winterizing your perennials, keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage. Mulch heavily by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material over the crown of each plant to prevent winter damage.
	In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.
WATERING	In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.