

## **TIPS ON GROWING STRAWBERRIES**

1. Growing fresh tasty strawberries is not difficult!
2. Strawberries need good soil or compost to do well.
3. Home-grown berries taste better and are fresher.
4. Varieties matter! Some old varieties **do** have better flavour but are more difficult to grow.
5. Others like strawberries too! Birds, slugs, snails, deer, etc.
6. Plants don't go on forever. Replace at least every third year and annually if growing in pots.
7. They can be forced for extra early crops but must have a cold period first.
8. If you grow several varieties you can extend the picking season to most of the summer and early autumn.

## **GROWING IN THE SOIL**

1. Good drainage and good quality soil are important. Plant on a ridge of soil if not.
2. Shaded crops will not be as good but shade is tolerated.
3. Good quality virus free plants are essential.
4. Don't plant too deep or too shallow, it has a dramatic adverse effect on performance.
5. They can be planted most months of the year but late summer/autumn is best.
6. Growing amongst the vegetables works well.
7. Space runners [plants] 30-40cm by 75-90cm apart.
8. Perpetual [also known as *Remontant*, *Everbearer*, or *Autumn Fruiting*] varieties extend the season into late summer and autumn.
9. Dig in lots of organic matter and 2oz Growmore per square yard.
10. Mulch with straw [or plant through ground cover fabric] to keep fruits clean.
11. Avoid frost pockets.
12. Force early crops with cloches/polytunnels but open to let insects in when in flower [insect pollinated].
13. Keep weeds under control.
14. Water well when dry.
15. Remove runners between rows- you can leave those **in** the rows.
16. Cut off all foliage when fruiting is over and burn the foliage.

## **GROWING IN CONTAINERS**

1. Use good potting compost or the contents of growbags.
2. Use generous sized containers, Westland's Planters are excellent.
3. Use attractive containers if displayed prominently.
4. Position in mostly sunny place.
5. Water regularly.
6. Feed with Tomorite weekly when growth begins in spring, stop when fruits ripen.
7. Easier to protect from slugs, snails and birds.
8. Replace plants [and compost] annually.
9. Plant in autumn and don't start to force until the turn of the year. A cold period is needed.
10. Use early varieties if forcing.
11. Heat is not necessary for earlier crops but it will give you the earliest when shop prices are highest.

## **RECOMMENDED VARIETIES**

### **EARLY**

Honeoye ~v. early, firm large good flavoured berries.

### **MID SEASON**

Elsanta ~ firm, orange large fruits. V good flavour and keeps well.

Hapil ~ heavy crop of large good flavoured berries. Strong grower.

Pegasus ~ large crop of sweet juicy berries of good colour. Especially bred for pots, beds and window boxes.

### **LATE**

Florence ~ firm good flavoured berries in July. Excellent disease resistance.

### **AUTUMN**

Aromel ~ Excellent flavour of good looking berries. August to September.

### **ALPINE**

Small fruits produced over a long period, plant about 20-30 plants to get a worthwhile crop.

Strawberry key points word804

CLEEVE NURSERY. CLEEVE.

BRISTOL. BS49 4PW TEL.01934 832134

[www.cleevenursery.co.uk](http://www.cleevenursery.co.uk) [info@cleevenursery.co.uk](mailto:info@cleevenursery.co.uk)

