



Bare Root Strawberry Planting Guide

Planting bare-root strawberries is an economical way to establish a strawberry patch in your garden. These dormant plants, with their roots exposed, arrive in early spring ([Or Late Summer*](#)) and are ready to grow once planted. Follow this guide to ensure a successful strawberry harvest.

Before Planting:

- **Site Preparation:** Strawberries require full sun (at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight) and well-drained, fertile soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.8. Amend your soil with compost or well-rotted manure before planting. Take a soil test and apply amendments based on recommendations.
- **When to Plant:** Strawberries are quite hardy and good to plant as soon as you can work the ground in the spring.
- **Soak the Roots:** Soak the bare-root strawberry plants in water for an hour before planting to hydrate the roots. We recommend adding Ultra Prebiotic to the soak.

Planting Steps:

Spacing: Plant strawberries 12-18 inches apart in rows that are spaced 4 feet apart. This allows for runners and ample growth. You can also plant in raised beds or pots, on a 12" by 12" grid. For a 12" container, 1-2 strawberry plants are usually recommended.

Digging Holes: Make holes deep and wide enough to accommodate the roots without bending them. The crown (where the roots meet the stem) should be level with the soil surface.

Placing the Plants: Spread the roots downward in the hole, and ensure the crown is at soil level. Backfill the hole with soil and gently firm it around the roots. **DO NOT LET THE ROOTS DRY OUT WHILE PLANTING- we keep in bucket of water with several tablespoons of blackstrap molasses.**

Watering: Water the plants thoroughly after planting. Keep the soil moist but not waterlogged as the plants establish.

Aftercare:

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- **Mulching:** Apply a straw or pine needle mulch around the plants to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and keep the fruit clean.
- **Fertilizing:** Wait until plants are established (about a month after planting) before applying a balanced fertilizer. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can encourage leaf growth at the expense of fruit.
- **Runner Management for June Bearers:** During the first year, consider removing runners and flowers to encourage the plants to establish strong roots and crowns. From the second year, you can allow some runners to root and produce new plants for a larger harvest.
- **Watering:** Strawberries need regular watering, especially during dry periods. Aim for about 1 inch of water per week, more during warmer weather.
- **Winter Care:** In colder climates, cover the strawberry bed with a straw mulch after the first hard freeze to protect plants over winter. Remove mulch in early spring, leaving some in place to protect fruit from dirt and moisture.

Pest and Disease Management:

- **Rotation:** Don't plant strawberries where strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, or eggplants have been grown in the past four years to avoid soil-borne diseases.
- **Monitoring:** Regularly check for signs of pests and diseases. Use organic methods for control when possible.

***Considerations For Fall Planting:**

Bare Root plants can be planted late summer/early fall for spring harvest similar to our [Fall planted plugs](#). This is typically done 7-10 weeks before the first frost date in the fall. Plant like shared above, but realize you need much more water for summer establishment- we sprinkle 3-4 times a day using [a timer like this](#), keeping the soil saturated for the first week to 10 days. With fall planting, your runner and flower removal should be minimal.

Special Considerations for Everbearing Strawberries:

- **Early Flower Removal:** For the first 4-6 weeks after planting, consider removing any flowers that appear on your everbearing strawberry plants. This early pruning encourages the plants to focus their energy on developing strong roots and

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foliage rather than fruit production. As a result, you'll see a more robust plant that's better equipped to support continuous fruiting throughout the season.

- **Everbearing Focus:** Unlike June-bearing varieties, everbearing strawberries benefit from allowing some runners to root in mid to late summer, providing fresh plants for the next season's early and late crops.
- **Harvesting:** Everbearing strawberries will provide a steady supply of berries. Regularly picking ripe fruit encourages the plant to produce more.
- **Winter Protection:** In colder regions, everbearing strawberries still require winter mulch for protection, but be sure to uncover them early in spring to allow for early flowering and fruit set.

By following these guidelines, you can enjoy a bountiful strawberry harvest from your garden.

Remember, patience and care are key to growing successful and delicious strawberries.

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