

Horticulture Hints

March 2010

Strawberries

Who doesn't love a bright, red strawberry? They taste even better when picked fresh out of your own bed! Extraordinary measures are not necessary to get strawberry production, but keeping them weeded and renovated in the years to come are important.

Strawberries like a sunny location with well-drained soil. Raised beds work great for strawberries, because they provide good drainage and allow you to amend easily. It is essential to add about 2% organic material to the soil.

June bearing varieties will give you the most production; they produce fruit once a year, but will have heaviest yields with larger berries. Stagger your harvest by planting varieties that mature in the early, mid and late season. Everbearing varieties produce in the normal harvest season, and again during the late summer or fall.

Plant your strawberries mid March to early April in the Manhattan area. Planting a matted row is the most common system of planting. Plant 18 to 24 inches apart in the row with 48 inches between rows. The runners, also called daughters, are allowed to root, forming a matted row. These will be your fruit-bearing plants for the next year. Plant with the crowns just even with the soil level, being careful not to plant too shallow or too deep. Apply about 1 inch of moisture per week, and increase that amount to 2 inches during the heat of the summer.

It may be hard to do, but it is best to remove the blooms of your plant the first season to encourage a strong, healthy plant to produce daughters and give you the best harvest in the years to come. Keep weeds down by shallow hoeing, light mulching or applying pre-emergent labeled for strawberries.

Fertilize your beds in August, as plants start forming buds for the next season in September and October. Use Fertilome Gardener's Special, 11-15-11, at a rate of about 1lb. per 25 foot row. Water in well to dissolve granules into the soil.

When winter arrives, mulch with straw or

leaves about 3 inches deep. In spring, pull back the mulch to reveal the plant's top, leaving the remaining mulch for moisture retention and weed control.

Strawberries are lots of fun to grow and a great way to produce your own fresh fruit to pick straight from your garden. At the Garden Store, we have both June bearing and Everbearing strawberries available and all the fertilizer and mulch you will need. For additional information, stop by the store and we'll give you the advice you need to get growing! ❁



What to do in March

- Attend the Spring Open House on Friday & Saturday, March 12 & 13
- Plant cool season veggies (peas, potatoes, salad crops, cole crops, etc.)
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees
- Apply Fertilome All Seasons Crabgrass Preventer with Barricade
- Plant perennials
- Seed cool season grass
- Plant pansies and violas
- Clean debris from flower beds
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Apply Tree & Shrub Food to existing trees & shrubs



2010 EVENTS

MARCH 12 & 13 ***** *Spring Open House*
APRIL 9 & 10 ***** *Geranium Sale*
MAY 8 ***** *Potting Party*
JUNE 17 ***** *Ladies Night*
JULY 17 ***** *Canning Seminar*
AUGUST 13 & 14, 20 & 21 *** *Tag-A-Tree Sale*
SEPTEMBER 9 ***** *Man Day*
OCTOBER 15 & 16 ***** *Fall Field Days*
NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 12 & 13
***** *Buy three trees, We plant 'em free*
DECEMBER 4 ***** *Holiday Open House*

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Friday & Saturday, March 12 & 13

All day: 8am-5pm

Store-wide specials

LIVE REMOTE with Q103.5 - Get your Q-BUCKS!

Saturday, March 13; 10am - noon

Buy them for only 69¢, and they're worth \$1 at sponsor locations. Spend them on anything in the store!

