

## Seascape Strawberries

Seascape yields large, juicy, well-shaped berries with superb flavor over a long season. It's one of the most productive and disease-resistant everbearing varieties. The plants have shallow roots, making them ideal for growing in containers as well as in the garden. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

### Care Upon Arrival

Inspect your plants upon arrival and check the roots for moisture. Sprinkle with water, if needed, to keep the roots and packing materials moist, but not soaked, until you plant them.

For best results, plant within 7 days of receipt. In the interim, close the bag and place the plants in the crisper section of your refrigerator or into a cool location, preferably around 32 degrees F. Do not let them freeze.

### Site Preparation

Strawberries grow best in moist, well-drained soil. They produce more fruit and sweeter berries when they receive 6 to 8 hours or more of full sun per day.

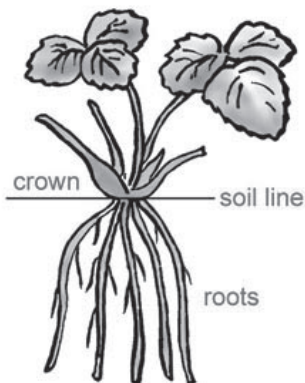
Plants grow especially well on mounded soil or raised beds with black plastic or thick straw mulch that helps retain moisture, maintain cool soil temperatures and keep weeds down. Before planting, amend soil with an inch or two of compost or well-rotted manure worked into the top 8" of soil. To reduce potential diseases, avoid planting where strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants or potatoes have previously grown.

### Planting

Keep the strawberry roots cool and moist while planting.

Space plants 12" to 18" apart in rows 3' to 4' apart. Make holes deep enough so that the roots extend down into the soil (see illustration.) Set each strawberry plant into the hole so that the soil is just covering the tops of the roots. Do not cover the crown.

Water the plants well after planting, and then once more within the week.



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## **Growing and Maintaining Strawberries**

To help strawberry plants become well established and grow the strongest roots, snip off all the flowers for 6 weeks after planting. Allow fruit to develop from midsummer through October in the first season. Remove all runners or daughter plants during the first season, too.

Berry size and productivity may drop off slightly during the heat of summer, but will return with cooler fall weather. Keep the strawberry bed weeded and provide water when rainfall is insufficient. Fertilize monthly with a general purpose fertilizer, such as our organic 5-5-5 All Purpose fertilizer, following package instructions. Discontinue fertilizing in late summer.

To protect your plants during cold winter weather, mulch them in the fall after the ground freezes with several inches of loose straw. In early spring, remove the mulch and place it between rows.

For more gardening products and information about growing strawberries and other fruits, please visit us at [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com).