

Growing Strawberries



Strawberries are easy to grow and are ready to eat before school finishes for the summer holidays.

Planting

- Strawberries can be grown in the ground, in raised beds, containers, in hanging baskets or even in an old pair of [wellies](#).
- Strawberries are best planted in the spring or autumn.
- Strawberry plants grow best in a sunny spot in the garden that has good drainage.

Planting in the ground or in raised beds

- Prepare the soil by removing weeds and digging over.
- Plant strawberry plants or “runners” (young plants) 30cm apart in rows. Have 60cm between rows.
- Plant the crown of the plant at soil level.
- Water the plants well after planting.

After Care

- Water regularly. Protect from slugs. Use a net to protect from birds and squirrels, because they enjoy strawberries as much as we do.
- Regularly remove weeds from between plants and rows.
- In mid-May, place straw between the plants and in the rows to stop weeds and to prevent the fruit from lying on the floor.

Planting in Hanging baskets

Hanging baskets are great if space is limited and to prevent slugs from damaging plants. A 30cm hanging basket will have enough room for up to 4 strawberry plants. Make sure there are drainage holes in the basket lining. Fill the basket with compost and plant the strawberry plant around the outside. Water in. Hanging baskets will need watering often to prevent drying out.





Harvest

- Harvest when the fruit are red. Usually June and July. Make sure the green stalk (calyx stays on the fruit).
- Check the plants for fruit every couple of days to prevent fruit rotting on the plant.
- Its best to pick your strawberries on a dry day.
- Be gentle when picking to avoid bruising the fruit.

Preparing your strawberries for eating

- Rinse the strawberries under running tap water and enjoy.
- Strawberries taste best when freshly picked but will keep for a couple of days in the fridge.

Aftercare

- After the fruit the strawberry plant will produce “runners”. Cut these off and plant – these are new plants and will produce more strawberries next year.
- Remove any dead or dying leaves from the plants. This creates space for new leaves to grow. Remove the straw from around the plants and add to your compost.

Strawberry activities

Strawberry senses

Describe the strawberry using the senses – Prepare some strawberries washed ready for eating.

What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it feel like? What does it sound like when you bite it / cut it? What does it taste like?

Count the strawberries

Different classes / groups within a class could each take responsibility for a plant and have a competition to see who can grow the most strawberries.

Strawberry artwork

Draw the flowers in spring

Paint a strawberry picture – what could be used to get a strawberry texture?

Strawberry Recipes

Strawberries are delicious eaten freshly picked on their own.

Strawberries are also great served with a spoonful of natural yogurt topped with a sprinkle of lower sugar granola.

[Strawberry pancakes](#) – these pancakes would be lovely topped with fresh strawberries

[Strawberry ice-cream](#)

