

# How to grow strawberries at home

Strawberries can be grown either in the backyard on a small scale or on a large scale in the field. To grow strawberries, choose a sunny location as the straw berries thrive in full sunlight. Ensure that the soil is well drained, fertile and slightly acidic. The soil is prepared by removing rocks, weeds and debris. Organic manure like well rotted compost are added to improve on soil fertility and structure.

## Cultivation practices

Variety selection. Select strawberry varieties that are well suited to your climate and purpose. Consider factors like flavor, disease resistance and yield while choosing a strawberry variety.

Planting. Plant the seedlings at a spacing of 12 to 18 inches apart and 2 to 3 feet between rows.

## Management practices

Irrigation and mulching. Do regular watering of the straw berries to ensure that the soil is always moist but not water logged. Drip irrigation is ideal for delivering water to the roots while minimizing foliar diseases.

Apply a layer of mulch around the plant to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and prevent direct contact of the fruit to the soil.

Apply a balanced fertilizer according to soil test recommendations or general guidelines. Fertilize at planting and then periodically during the growing season.

Remove weeds regularly to prevent competition for nutrients and space.

Monitor for pests and diseases and take appropriate measures to control them.

Harvest strawberries when they are fully ripe, bright red and fragrant.