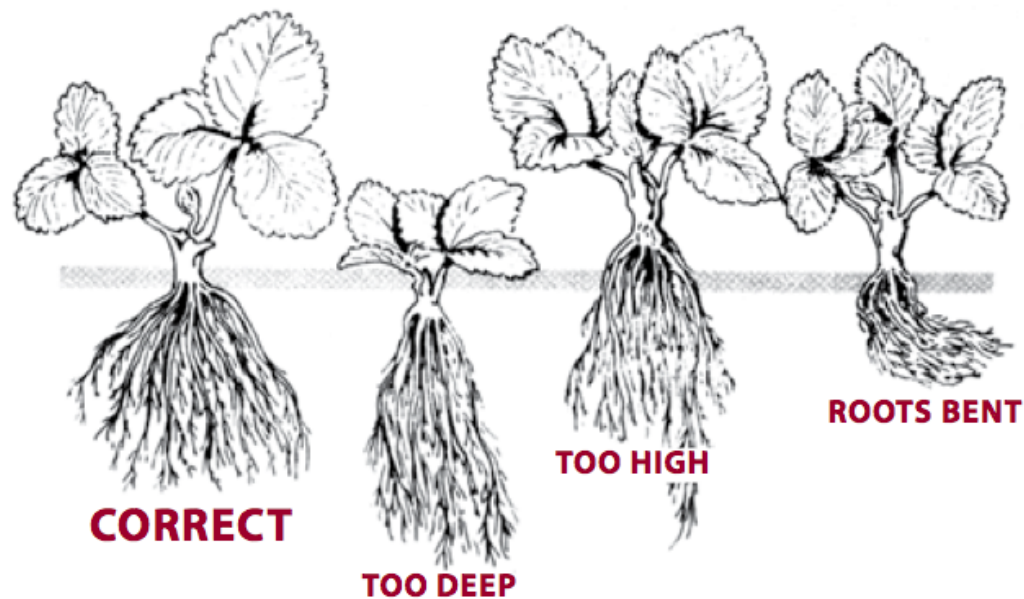


Strawberry Planting Basics

- Prepare a bed large enough to accommodate plants and leave room for growth.
- Avoid planting in soils where previous crops have included strawberries, raspberries, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants or peppers.
- Work 1/2 lb. – 1 lb. of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. into the soil at least 2 – 3 weeks before planting **OR** buy pre-fertilized planting soil.
- Set plants 12" – 18" apart in row, 3' – 4' between rows.
- For each plant, dig a hole in the soil so that you are able to lower the plant into the ground without bending or cutting the roots.



Strawberry Planting Basics (cont'd)

- Take care that soil is packed firmly but not hard-packed around the plant roots.
- Water thoroughly after planting. Maintain good moisture throughout the season. Strawberries do best when they get 1" – 2" of rainfall or equivalent irrigation each week, depending on soil type.
- Strawberry roots are shallow. Be careful not to damage the roots while you are removing weeds.
- Avoid covering crowns with soil while you hoe, weed, and cultivate throughout the season.
- Pinch off all the flowers for 6 weeks after setting out your plants and remove all the runners during the first year.
- Allow plants to develop fruit midsummer through October.
- Side-dress with 1/2 pound of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. in July and again in August, compensating for wet periods that leach away nutrients.
- Mulch with any loose, acid-free and weed-free material such as salt hay or straw, approximately 4" deep, after plants have started to go dormant or after several hard frosts — usually in early to late November.