

THE PLANT KINGDOM GREENHOUSE & NURSERY, INC.  
620 FIDELER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99712  
907-45-PLANT (907-457-5268)  
OPEN 10AM-7PM EVERYDAY OF THE SUMMER!

## **Strawberries!**

**All day neutral (ever bearing)**

### **Albion**

Known for its large to very large fruit. Fruit is mostly conical, very firm and red in color. Its flavor is very good for a day-neutral and is sweet and pleasant. It is a high yielding cultivar with robust runners and stalks.

### **Quinault**

Considered annuals in this climate but 70-80% may winter, although they tend to be weaker plants the second season. Quinault strawberries have a long history in Fairbanks and are a more familiar variety to local gardeners. Their berries are soft, juicy, and sweet. Some reach the size of plums. They are best harvested before completely red.

### **Seascape**

Produces very large, firm fruit, which have good color and flavor when picked ripe. They have a symmetric, medium to long conical berry with a glossy finish.

### **Tribute**

Medium sized, firm, short conic wedge shaped fruit, which varies from irregular to symmetrical. Bright red skin, light to medium red flesh. Acidic, but pleasant flavor. Good processing quality. Medium size plant.

### **Care**

When you purchase your strawberry plants as bare-root in the spring in Fairbanks, you will probably have to keep them before you can plant them in their permanent place. You can do this by either healing them into a flat or flats filled with soil or keeping them in a cool place like your refrigerator. In the flats they will get a head start, as they will be able to grow. In both places be sure to keep them moist but not too wet.

Once planted in their permanent place, to speed up and maximize production, lay a strip of clear polyethylene (3 feet wide, 1.5 mil thick works well) the length of your strawberry row. It should be anchored along the sides with soil, and the end result should be a poly-covered planting surface about two feet wide and numerical length in feet equal to half the number of strawberry plants you have. Using a bulb planter, knife or scissors, puncture the poly in two places (equally spaced from side to side) of the covered row and at one foot intervals the length of the row. Insert a strawberry plant through each hole into the soil beneath and to a depth that assures that the roots are covered but that the crown is above the soil surface. Lay another strip of poly about three feet wide and the length of your row on each side of your planting surface, anchoring the length of each of these strips with soil. Then place wire hoops (consisting of 20 gauge wire cut into three foot lengths) so that they span your planting surface at about five foot intervals. Pull the side strips of poly up over the hoops so they meet in the middle and use clothespins to hold them together. The end result is a Quonset or tunnel shaped cold frame the length of your strawberry row. The side of this tent can be lowered during warm days and can be raised on cold nights, during hail or rain storms, and as protection during fall frosts. Hot South exposures, raised beds, and containers are also successful growing situations.

If planted in Mid May, your strawberries have a preliminary bloom and fruiting period in mid to late June. The early fruit is not spectacular in size but the main bloom that starts in mid to late July and continues through September, produces impressive quantities of strawberries, many of which are the size of plums. There are varying opinions on how many runners to allow each plant, but at least for Quinaults, a common practice is to remove all but two runners per plant.

Fertilizer application for your strawberries should be similar to that of a vegetable garden. One recommendation is 3-5# per 100 square feet of an organic granular fertilizer such as Arctic Grow All Natural 5-6-6, packing an organic compost around the roots of the strawberries as you plant them, and fertilizing once a week during the growing season with Natures Source(Daniels) Fertilizer (1 TBS/gallon H2O)