

PLANTING STRAWBERRIES IN THE HOME GARDEN

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Homegrown strawberries are one of the most demanding berries, and the success of the harvest begins right with the choosing of planting site and growing method.

First of all, it should be mentioned that strawberries are not recommended to plant and grow in lowlands. Before planting the level of acidity of the soil should be checked (optimal is 5.5-6.5 ph). As a rule, strawberry seedlings are planted in open ground in early spring or early autumn.

Young sprouts need a lot of nutrients, therefore, in order to get strong bushes and a rich harvest, it is necessary to plant them in the places, where dill or parsley, garlic or onion, peas or beans were grown before. Well-moistened fertile soils are the most appropriate, while limestones and salt marshes are unfavorable [1].

Before planting it is necessary to keep strawberry seedlings in the honey solution for two hours. It is made by mixing 1 liter of water and 1 teaspoon of honey. Sprouts absorb vitamins and acclimatize to the new soil at short intervals. This method can be used for all varieties of strawberries.

To plant strawberries you should:

- Add humus while preparing soil.
- Make shallow holes 10-15 cm deep, considering the distance between the bushes 30 cm and between the rows - 40-70 cm.
- Instead of humus, 20 g of fertilizer with microelements for the good strawberry growth should be added into each pit (1 tbsp. per 1L.). It is necessary to mix the fertilizer with the ground in order not to burn the roots of seedlings [1].
- While putting seedling into the hole, one should make sure that the roots do not bend, otherwise there will be no berries. Long roots must be trimmed or cut off.
- Pour a little water (0.5L or 1L if the soil is dry) into the hole so that the roots are saturated with moisture [2].
- When water is absorbed, cover the hole with the ground leaving top bud uncovered.
- Tamp the ground around the seedling and trim longer buds and damaged leaves.
- If strawberry seedlings are planted in rows, make furrows between them and water them instead of plants in order to prevent crust forming.
- After watering wait until the water will be absorbed and mulch the furrows with peat, hay or straw. Otherwise, it will be necessary to loosen the furrows constantly for keeping moisture.

The best time for planting strawberry is from late April to mid-May. During this period, there is still no heat, but there is already a lot of sunlight. In autumn the most appropriate time is between late August and until mid-September, thus the seedlings have enough time for acclimatization and put down a good root system.

References

1. Mierzejewski K., Rhoades H., Growing Tips For Strawberry Plants Strawberry Plants: website. URL: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/strawberry/growing-strawberry-plants.htm> (Last accessed 1.10.2019)
2. Planting Strawberry Plants: website. URL: <https://www.starkbros.com/growing-guide/how-to-grow/berry-plants/strawberry-plants/planting> (Last accessed 9.10.2019)

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