

## STRAWBERRY

*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.

**Cultivars:** Chandler, Festival, Sweet Charlie, Early Dawn

**Soil:** Land should be thoroughly prepared by deep ploughing followed by harrowing. Liberal quantities of organic manure should be incorporated in the soil before planting. Runners can be planted on flat beds in the form of hills or in mated rows. In irrigated condition planting should be done on ridges.

**Propagation:** Tissue cultured plants, Runners

**Time of planting:** November

**Spacing:** Plant at a spacing of 45 cm x 45 cm

**Planting:**

Planting should be done in raised bed (15 cm high and 1.8 m wide) mulched with black plastic (30 micron thickness). Crown portion of the plant should be above the soil surface. Straw (4-6 inch thick) can also be used as mulch.

**Manure and Fertilizer:**

5 kg FYM along with 10:7:7 g NPK is to be applied per sqm area. Phosphorus fertilizer should be incorporated before planting while N is to be applied in two splits at 3 weeks after planting and K fertilizer at flowering stage.

**Cultural practices:**

**Irrigation:** Watering should be done at 3-4 days intervals depending on the moisture status of soil. During fruiting frequent irrigation increases the fruit size and yield.

**Plant Protection:**

- 1) **Red spider mite and cut worms:** These are common insect-pests in strawberry. The mite can be controlled by application of Spiromesifen 22.90% SC @ 72 g ai/ha. Cut worms can be controlled by application of Clothianidin 50WDG @ 80 g ai/ha or Thiamethoxam 25WG @ 26 g ai/ha.
- 2) **Red stele:** Caused by *Phytophthora fragaria*. Soil drainage and crop sanitation is to be maintained. Soil application of Fosetyl AI 80WP @ 0.2% in severely infected area.
- 3) **Root rot:** Drench the affected plants with Chlorothalonil 75WP @ 2g/ltr of water
- 4) **Leaf spot / Black spot:** Chlorothalonil 75WP @ 0.2% or COC @ 0.25 % sprays at weekly intervals when the disease appears. Rotation of strawberry with other crops like legume vegetables (beans, peas etc.) reduces the infestation.

**Harvesting:** Fruits ripen during February to April

For the local market fruits should be harvested when fully ripe. For distant markets,

fruits should be firm but should be harvested before development of colour.

**Yield:**

200-250 q/ha depending upon spacing, variety and cultural practices