

Strawberry

Fragaria × ananassa · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Perennial, grown from runners/crowns

MATURITY 4–6 weeks to first fruit after planting



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, even



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



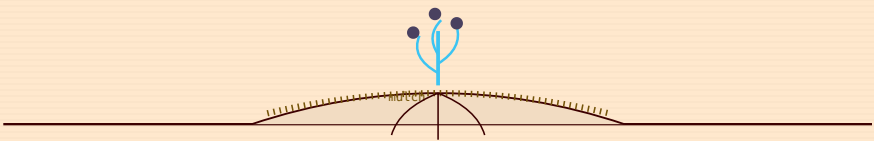
SPACING
30cm



DEPTH
crown at soil level

01 Crown at soil level

Plant so the crown — where the leaves meet the roots — sits exactly at soil level. Too deep and it rots; too shallow and it dries out.



mulched bed, shallow roots

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-root crowns or potted runners, crown at soil level.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, slightly acidic.
TIMING	Plant in autumn for a spring crop, or spring for a smaller first-year harvest.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Mulch with straw to keep fruit clean and off damp soil.
- Remove runners unless propagating new plants.
- Water evenly — irregular watering causes small or misshapen fruit.
- Replace plants every 3 years as vigour declines.

04 Problems

- **Grey mould (botrytis)** — fruit rot in humid weather; improve airflow, mulch under fruit.
- **Slugs and snails** — target ripening fruit; use barriers.
- **Birds** — netting is close to essential.
- **Small fruit** — overcrowded runners; thin regularly.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fully red, no white shoulders, comes away easily.
METHOD	Pinch the stem rather than pulling the fruit.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge a few days; freezes well.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a berry glut) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Lettuce Spinach Onion Thyme	Brassicas	Replace the bed or divide every 3 years; avoid replanting where tomatoes grew.