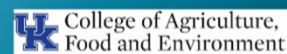




# Strawberry Production

shawn.wright@uky.edu

facebook.com/UniversityofKentuckyHorticultureRCARS



1

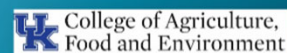
Thanks to Dr. John Strang for sharing photos

## Good information sources

[www.uky.edu/ccd/production/crop-resources/fruit/strawberries](http://www.uky.edu/ccd/production/crop-resources/fruit/strawberries)

[plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/mw\\_home\\_fruit\\_productn\\_b591.pdf](http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/mw_home_fruit_productn_b591.pdf)

[www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf)



2

## Cultivated Strawberry (*Fragaria* x *Ananassa*) (primarily)

Chilean/Beach Strawberry  
*Fragaria chiloensis*



X



Virginia/Wild Meadow  
Strawberry

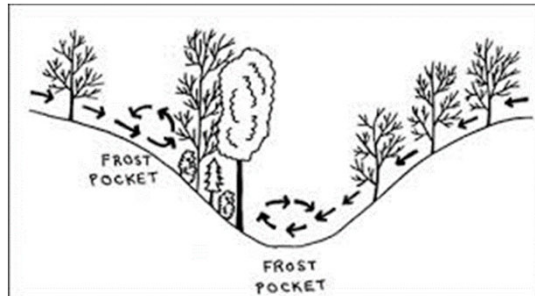
*Fragaria virginiana*

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

3

## Site Selection

- ▶ Air drainage
- ▶ Well drained soil
- ▶ Good soil depth
- ▶ Irrigation availability
- ▶ Don't guess, soil test!
  - pH 6.5
  - Bring P, K, & Mg up to recommended levels



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

4

## Matted Row vs. Plasticulture (June bearing varieties)



## June-bearing vs everbearing vs day neutrals

- ▶ June-bearing
  - Most common
  - Highest yield but shouldn't be allowed to produce until the second year
  - Produce late May through early July
- ▶ Everbearing (Fort Laramie, Quinault)
  - Produce a crop in the fall of the planting year
  - 2 smaller crops in Spring and Fall
- ▶ Day-neutral (Seascape, Tribute, Tristar)
  - Produce a crop in the fall of the planting year
  - Small crop from spring through fall unless it gets too hot.

## Runners vs. Fruit



7

## Recommended June-bearing Varieties

1. Earliglow – early, good flavor and quality, shows good resistance

Cavendish – testing in KY, early to midseason, large firm fruit, may suffer from white shoulders

Delmarvel – early to midseason, flavorful, aromatic, dark red

2. Flavorfest – midseason, excellent flavor and color

Jewel – mid season, large, firm texture, good color, excellent flavor

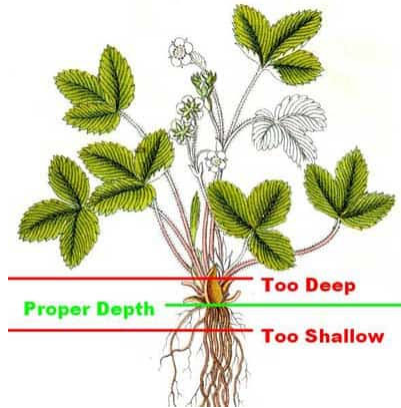
Red Chief –mid season, fruit glossy and medium sized, and moderate flavor

Ovation –late season, large berry, excellent resistance

8

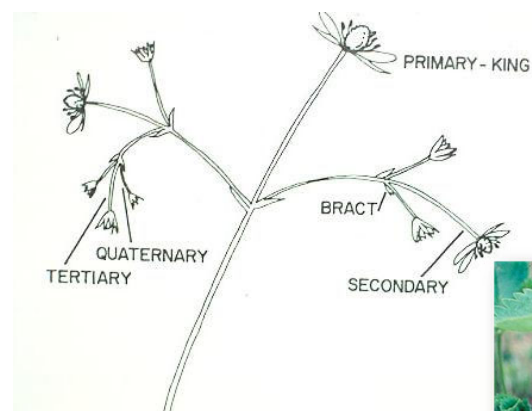
## Planting

- ▶ Prune plant's roots
- ▶ Keep plant roots moist while planting
- ▶ Do not double up roots
- ▶ Soil depth needs to be even to the crown
- ▶ Self pollinator
- ▶ Can be grown in containers



9

## Flower Structure – First flowers produce the largest fruit



10



## Frost Protection

- ▶ Flower buds lose their hardiness as they develop and become prone to frost injury



11

Critical temperatures for strawberry buds, flowers, and fruit.

Buds emerge	Buds closed	Flowers open	Small green fruit
10 <sup>0</sup> F	22-27 <sup>0</sup> F	30 <sup>0</sup> F	28 <sup>0</sup> F

12

## Mulch

- ▶ Use clean straw
- ▶ Prevents frost heaving
- ▶ Slows spring growth
- ▶ Protects blooms from spring frosts
- ▶ Reduces weed growth
- ▶ Conserves moisture
- ▶ Apply when temperatures approach 20F, or when leaf color turns from green to gray



13

## Strawberry Renovation After Harvest

Determine if planting is worth renovating.

Cut row width

Throw a fine layer of soil over the crowns to rejuvenate the mother plants.

Thin plants to 5 to 6 inches in row



14

## Insect & Disease Control

- ▶ Rarely any significant insect or disease problems first season
- ▶ Strawberries are minimally sprayed in Midwest. Must select disease resistant varieties
- ▶ Most important spray is fungicide sprays during bloom for botrytis fruit rot
  - Also susceptible to root rots
- ▶ Observe planting frequently looking for problems

15

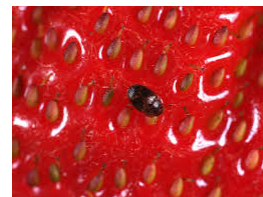


Slugs



Grubs

Birds and deer



Sap Beetles

16



## Weed Managment



17

## Disclaimer

- ▶ Where a specific trade name is mentioned no endorsement is implied nor any discrimination intended towards any other similar suitable product.

18