



Growing Strawberries in San Antonio, Texas

When is the Best Time to Grow Strawberries in San Antonio, Texas?

Late September through early November is the absolute best time to try growing strawberries in San Antonio.

-This will give you an abundant harvest by the following spring.

-Follow this plan that Poteet strawberry farmers follow: plant in September, harvest in April, pull out plants by June.

What are the best Strawberries to Grow in San Antonio, Texas?

The varieties Chandler, Sequoia, Seascape, Quinalt, Elan, and Cardinal are some of the best strawberries to grow in our San Antonio area.

How to Grow Strawberries in San Antonio, Texas?

1. Choose a location that receives full sun.

2. Do not plant in low areas that collect water.

-Containers or 6" to 12" raised beds are ideal for growing strawberries as they cannot tolerate wet, waterlogged soils.

3. Well-draining soil, acidic, sandy, or sandy loam soil that is very high in organic matter (compost) is best for growing strawberries.

-Create an ideal growing medium with a mixture of compost and sand.

-Use quality soil. There is an old adage that goes, "Better to put a \$1 dollar plant in a \$10 hole than a \$10 plant in a \$1 hole."

4. Mix fertilizer with the ratio 8-8-8 on the bag into the soil before planting strawberries.

-This promotes vigorous plant development.

5. Strawberries should be planted with a minimum of 12 inches of space between them.

6. Make sure that the crown of the strawberry plant (the area between the roots and the leafy greens) is situated slightly above the soil line. Never plant the crown below the soil or you risk your strawberry plant rotting.

7. Mulch your strawberry plants to keep pill bugs, snails and slugs at bay. We like to use straw mulch for strawberries.

Maintaining Strawberries in San Antonio, Texas

1. Strawberries prefer soil that is consistently moist. Not too wet, not too dry. (Again, soil that drains well is imperative.

-You should check on the soil moisture around your strawberries often to make sure they are being adequately irrigated.

-Once strawberries are established, water when weekly rainfall is less than 2"

2. Apply a nitrogen rich fertilizer every 3 weeks once the strawberries begin to blossom.

-Do not let blossoms/flowers and runners stay on plants when planting in fall. Cutting these off directs all the energy to the roots to help establish your strawberries so that they can be very productive with fruit bearing in spring.

-Be sure to remove all flowers/blossoms and runners that are produced on the strawberry plants through Christmas.

-(Side note: Runners do develop into new plants and some people like to let them grow and develop; but they do take energy away from the adult plant, resulting in smaller, less vigorous fruit.)

3. When fall planted strawberries begin to produce in late February, you can change to a fertilizer that still has nitrogen, but is also somewhat higher in phosphate to encourage spring bloom production.

4. Once the strawberries have produced (usually by May or June) you can either choose to pull out the plants, or cut them back and try to keep them going for another year.

-In Texas, home gardeners sometimes have a little difficulty maintaining strawberries through the summer.

-If you choose to cut back strawberry plants, take care not to damage the crown. Cut the entire strawberry plant down to about 4" at the end of the season.