

STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION

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Introduction

SCIENTIFIC NAME: FRAGARIA
FAMILY: ROSCACEAE



The delicious and extremely popular strawberries are one of the most consumed fruits worldwide. This fruit is widely appreciated for its characteristic aroma, bright red color, juicy texture, and sweetness.

The strawberry belongs to the genus Fragaria. Plants of the genus Fragaria are perennials of long, gnarled crawling stems, called rhizomes. They have trifoliate compound leaves, that is, with 3 leaflets (leaves in the same structure). Its flowers have 5 petals and tend to be white with the yellow center, but in some cultivated varieties the petals are slightly red or pink.

'The plant is grown for its edible fruit, with a flavor that varies depending on the species and variety. Strawberries are rich in vitamin C, potassium, fiber and calcium. The fruit is also used as a home remedy for its astringent, tonic and refreshing properties. Due to its mild laxative and diuretic effects it is used to improve digestion and treat gout and diarrhea. Applied to the skin is useful for treating sunburn and spots.

JDA has been working with strawberries since 2005, initially varieties from projects started in Kabul. Since then local markets have responded very positively to strawberries. In the planting season of 200/10 and 210/11 more than 90,000 starts were distributed or sold to over 120 producers through JDA projects or via producers who received plants in 2008.

The spring/summer harvest season lasts about 70 days. At their peak, strawberries wholesale at between 3.10 and 3.40 USD/kg and at around 2.45 USD for the last few weeks.

Strawberry production is a profitable business, provided that regular watering is available and markets are accessible. Even small areas can be profitable, particularly since the berry is ripe when little other fresh fruit is available. To build the strawberry production economy, it is isportant to develop best practices

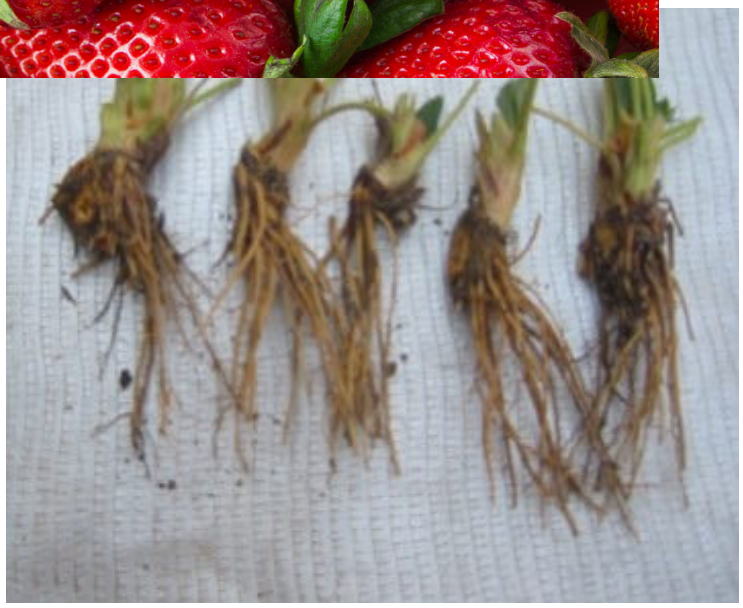
SEEDLINGS PREPARATION STAGES

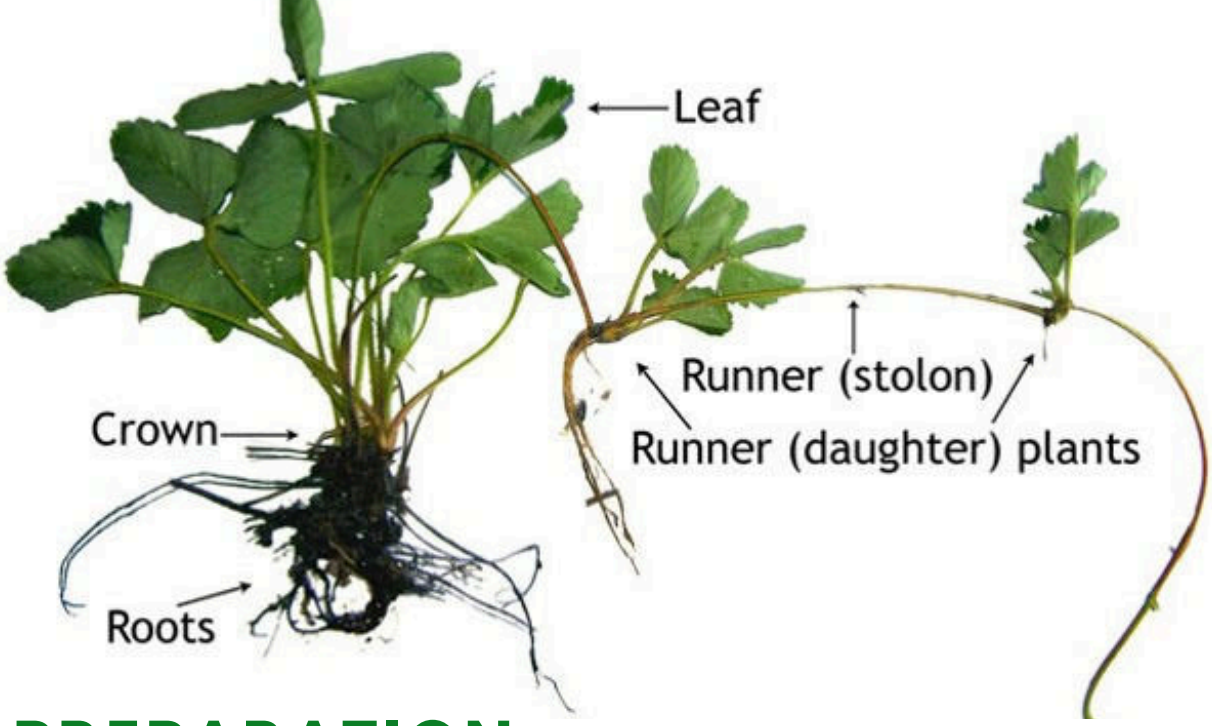








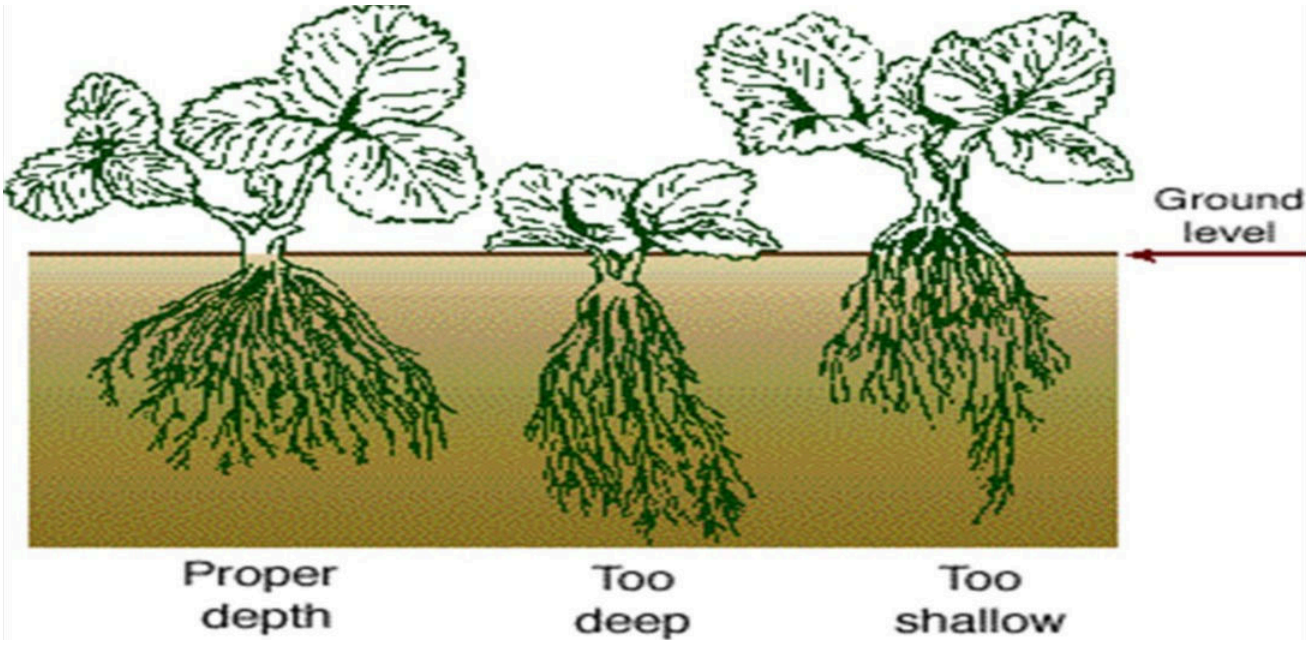




SOIL PREPARATION

Strawberries can grow in different types of soils, but the best soil is that which has some amount of sand, because it increases the water holding capacity of the soil. Soil with pH of 5.5-6.5 is very reasonable for strawberries. Strawberries require more sunlight. Strawberry cultivation should be prevented in lands previously used to grow pepper, eggplant, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon, cucumber, and squash. It is better to cultivate strawberries after grain crops, legumes and other vegetables.

SEEDLING DEPH



IRRIGATION

Strawberries have a better adaptation in humid regions and produce more yield. In early spring and end of fall seasons, the plant should be watered once in an interval of 6-8 days. In late spring and during summer, it should be watered once in 4-5 days. During fruit production, water should not be applied as much, because the fruit will spoil.

To prevent the fruit from spoiling, a tiny amount of wheat straw or other mulch should be added into the ridges and bed.

SUNLIGHT

It requires about 6 hours of sunlight in a day, but will produce the largest yield with greater quality of full day sunlight. (They could be grown in the shade as well, but if the shade is dense/heavy, the plant will not produce enough fruit or will not produce fruit at all.)

FERTILIZER

For better yield production and soil fertility, add some amount of animal manure. An amount of 10-15 ton of animal manure, 200 kg of Urea and 125 kg of DAP is adequate for one hechate of land.

HARVESTING

Strawberry fruit must be harvested immediately after maturity. Every day or every other day we should check the field wether it is matured or not and collect matured fruits, otherwise it will spoil and will attract insects.
Fruit collection should be done early in the morning and must be stroed in cool place with shade.





BEST PRACTICES

When strawberries are being packed, do not fill the box too much because fruit can get damaged.

Please AVOID washing the strawberries before use because it softens the fruit and it will spoil.

Using mulch can be of benefit during the fruit production because i will not be directly in touch with the soil.

Apply water once a week in the bed planting system.

Perform on time control of disease, pests and weeds.

Cutting stolon during the grow stage to avoid seedling weakness.

Collect the fruit in specific packs and keep in the shade until it is carried to the market.



