



UCDAVIS

Plant Breeding Center

How to Care for Your Picnic Day Strawberry Plant

plantbreeding.ucdavis.edu

Thank you for visiting our table in the Plant and Environmental Sciences Courtyard on Picnic Day.

We have compiled a few tips on how to care for your strawberry plant, what to expect in it's lifecycle, and what kinds of pests or diseases may affect it.



Strawberry Plant Features

- + These strawberries are tolerant to viruses encountered in California.
- + All three varieties will produce vegetative shoots called “runners,” which will stretch away from the mother plant and, in the right conditions, root and produce a clone plant.



Strawberry Planting Tips

- + Plant in full sun; 6-8 hours per day.
- + Plant multiple strawberries 12" apart.
- + Avoid “J-rooting” the plant - dig a deep enough hole that the roots remain straight during planting.
- + Plants prefer good drainage, whether in pots or in the ground.



Strawberry Plant Maintenance

- + Leave bare ground around plant if you want to let runners root. Runners can be dug up and planted elsewhere once they have developed their own roots.
- + Water plants at the base, avoid wetting the crown and canopy. Water on the crown, leaves, flowers, and fruits increase the chance of disease developing on those specific organs. A constantly drenched plant is also likely to collapse.



Flowers and Fruit

- + Pinch off flowers until there are more than 5-6 leaves; otherwise, fruit that develops may be small.
- + Pollination is usually not an issue with modern varieties, but fruit set and uniformity might be improved by rustling the canopy with your hand back and forth vigorously once the plant has flowers.
- + Cut off old, browning leaves or aborted flowers with clean scissors. Clean scissors with Lysol before clipping each plant to reduce spread of disease between plants.



Plant Breeding Resources

UC Davis Plant Breeding Center:

plantbreeding.ucdavis.edu

UC Davis Strawberry Program:

<http://knapp.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/>

For signs of strawberry plant disease:

<https://bit.ly/2JdqiKi>

Thank you to the UC Davis Strawberry Program, greenhouse staff, and volunteers for providing and expertly caring for the strawberry in your hands!

