

THE DIGGERS CLUB

THE *Secret* TO GROWING STRAWBERRY RUNNERS



Strawberries are far superior when grown and eaten fresh from the garden. Their flavour is full and they are deliciously fragrant. Available in pots all year round and as bare root runners in winter, if you want to grow a strawberry patch, runners are the answer because they are easier on your hip pocket, and quick to establish.

Planting strawberry runners is easy, just follow the 3 simple steps below and you'll be enjoying fresh strawberries in summer!

STEP 1

When the runners arrive they will be securely wrapped in plastic. Remove the packaging and rinse the roots in fresh water. Remove any dead leaves using scissors or secateurs. Always plant bare root plants on the same day that you unwrap them!



STEP 2

Plant into a moist soil enriched with compost. Look at the runner to check planting depth (see pictures below). If the roots are long, trim to around 10cm and plant them pointing straight down. Don't allow the roots to 'double back' when planting.



STEP 3

Water the plants immediately after planting. Water periodically throughout the cooler months. Increase watering as the days begin to warm in spring. Protect young plants from frost until established. Apply fertiliser in spring and be ready to net your crop in summer.



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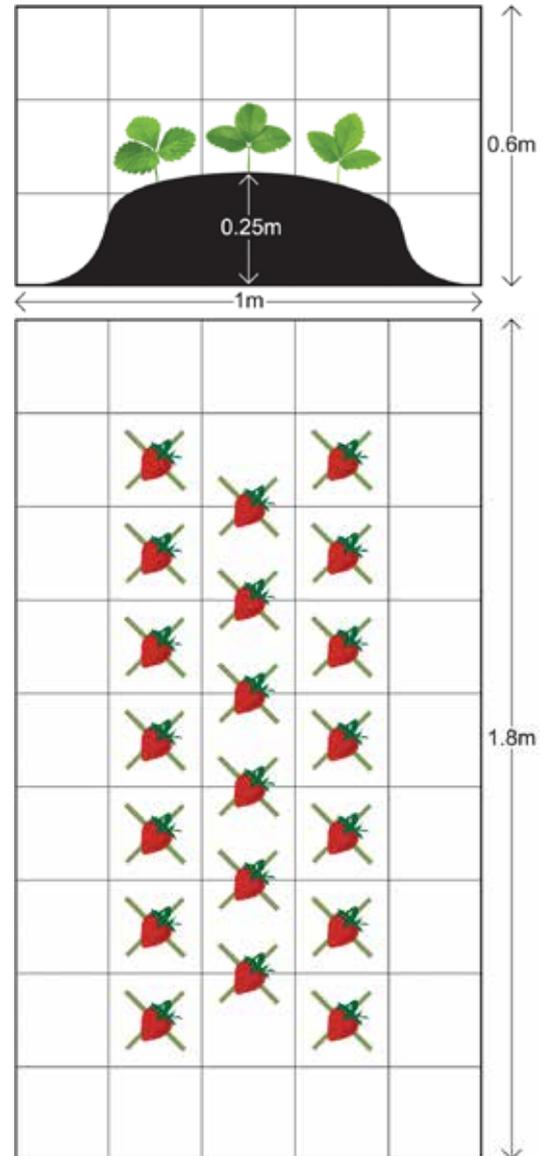
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PLANTING A STRAWBERRY PATCH

- First, decide where you want your strawberry patch to grow. Keep in mind that strawberries prefer full sun.
- Dig over the patch of soil and incorporate compost and well-rotted manures to help improve the soil prior to planting.
- Mound up the soil to create a strawberry bed roughly 60cm wide, 1.4m long and 25cm high (see Fig 1 top).
- Lay weed mat over the soil and tuck the outer edges into the soil to hold the mat in place. Bricks or pavers can also be used to weigh down the edges and to prevent the mat from blowing away!
- Using the planting plan (Fig 1 bottom), create a series of 'X' cuts into the weed mat at the marked locations. Plant the strawberries through the 'X' cuts (see Fig 2).



▲ FIG 2



▲ FIG 1

PLANTING A HANGING GARDEN

- Fill your strawberry bag with premium potting mix up to the first 'X' in the bag. Firm down the soil.
- Push a strawberry runner through each of the holes from inside, so the crown is just poking through.
- Fill to the next lot of 'X' openings and repeat the process until you get to the top of the bag.
- Water well and hang in a warm sunny position. The hanging bag will need to be watered regularly so that it doesn't dry out.

