

Day-Neutral Strawberries

Unlike June-bearing strawberries, day-neutral strawberries flower and produce fruit anytime the temperatures are between 35 and 85°F. They will produce berries throughout the summer and fall, including the year they are planted. Day-neutral strawberries do not send out runners profusely like June-bearers, so they are managed differently.

Knobloch's carries the day-neutral variety, Seascape. It is noteworthy for its high flavor, high yield, large berry size, firmness, and its attractive appearance.

Planting:

- Day-neutral strawberries grow best in a sunny location; however since they do not bear fruit at temps above 85°, it is best to have a location with some afternoon shade so they will stay cooler and bear more.
- Since they do not produce runners profusely, day-neutral strawberries are planted much closer than June-bearers.
 - Plant them 6-10" apart in single rows with rows that are spaced 42" apart.
- Another option is a staggered double row system:
 - Plants are spaced 12" apart in the row and 12" apart between the two rows.
 - Space each staggered double row with 42" between the rows.

Continuing Care:

- Day-neutral plants produce flowers from the time of planting through autumn frost. It is important to remove all flowers for the first month so you get better established plants which will result in better yields.
- Fruits will form about 30 days after flowering.
- It is also best to remove all runners that develop, as they will only take away from your yield.
- Since day-neutral strawberries bear constantly, it is best to fertilize your berries every month.
- It is also good to mulch your plants. Mulch will help with weeds, will keep your berries cleaner, will help conserve moisture, and will keep your soil cooler so they bear better.
- Strawberries should receive one inch of water each week, either by rainfall or irrigation.
- To overwinter, cover the plants with several inches of mulch in late fall.
 - Then in early spring, make sure the mulch is thin enough for the plants to grow through (rake back as necessary).

