

STRAWBERRY CARE GUIDE



Where to Place Your Plant

Your strawberry plants need lots of sun. But if they're in the direct sunlight all day (especially the harsh sun in the middle of the day, which occurs between 10am-2pm), your plants will burn. Find a place where they are able to get lots of sun but have some shade in the middle of the day.



How to Water

The trick to growing strawberries in containers is to avoid both dryness and soggy. That is accomplished by watering with moderate amounts of water instead of soaking the plant to the point that the soil is soggy. The soil should stay just-damp, never dry. Feel the soil before watering to see how wet it is. Try to check it every day. The strawberries on all three levels of your containers will need to be watered individually (don't just water the top layer).



How to Harvest Strawberries



It may take several weeks for your strawberry plants to bear fruit. Continue to care for them after you have completed the strawberry unit with your classroom. The kids can monitor the plant's growth and hopefully try a few strawberries later in the summer.

You'll know it's time to harvest the fruit when you notice them turning red. Taste a ripe one to know for sure. To harvest strawberries, which are sweetest when they're fully ripe, follow these steps:

- When you see a strawberry nearly ripe, allow it to sit on the vine for another day or two
- Gently pull the fruit from the stem, or cut the stem above the strawberry instead of pulling the fruit off
- Store berries in a shady, cool location
- Leave the fruit unwashed until you plan to eat it to keep it fresh longer