

The Sandy Post

## Home &amp; Garden



Strawberries are not only a valuable commercial crop, but they are popular with home gardeners as well, thanks to their taste and versatility. Strawberries can be frozen, canned or made into jam — if there are any left over at all.

## Versatility trait of berries

Strawberries are popular in home gardens for several reasons, mainly because they have excellent taste and they are quite versatile.

Strawberries can be eaten fresh, or they can be frozen, canned or made into food products such as jam and wine. Because of that versatility, there is usually no such thing as having a bigger strawberry harvest than you can use.

New strawberry beds can be planted in the spring after the danger of severe frost has passed. Garden stores and nurseries have a number of strawberry varieties to choose from. Since strawberries perform best in the area where they originated, it is best to grow those varieties developed for Oregon climates.

Two main types are available — June-bearing and everbearing. June-bearers produce one crop of berries in late spring or ear-

ly summer. Everbearers produce one crop in June and another in late summer or fall.

In areas where late spring frosts may kill the June crop, everbearers usually provide a summer or fall harvest.

June-bearers recommended for western Oregon include Hood, Shuksan, Rainier, Olympus, Benton, Totem, Tioga, Siletz and Shasta. Everbearing varieties west of the Cascades include Quinalt, Gem, Ogallala, Rockhill and Ozark Beauty.

In eastern Oregon, June-bearing varieties are recommended for lower altitude areas with a longer growing season. Hood, Benton, Rainier, Olympus and Totem are among those available.

Everbearers such as Ogallala, Quinalt, Gem, Streamliner and Rockhill should be used in the colder,

short season areas of eastern and central Oregon.

When buying plants, look for those that are certified disease-free. Several virus and pest problems carried in non-certified plants can make a short-lived dream out of the strawberry venture.

Strawberries require fertile, well-drained soil, full sunlight and mild winter temperatures. They should be planted on a site that has good air circulation and is not a pocket for cold and frost. If possible, avoid areas previously used to grow tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants and non-certified berry plants to reduce the chance of diseases from contaminated soil.

Before planting, apply 6-10-4 fertilizer or one with similar contents, using one quart of dry fertilizer spread uniformly over 100 feet of row area. Work this material into the top six inches of soil.

When planting, spread the roots out and down and set the crown at soil level.

The matted row planting system is often used for June-bearers. Plants are spaced a 1½ to 2 foot intervals with rows 3 to 3½ feet apart. Then runners are allowed to develop and produce new plants that form a matted row 18 inches wide. The remaining space between rows is kept clear.

The hill system is preferred for everbearers, although it is also used for June-bearers. Plants are spaced 12 to 15 inches apart with rows 2½ to 3 feet apart. All runners are cut and removed during the growing season.

Six weeks after planting, apply one pint of ammonium nitrate per 100 feet of row and water it into the soil. Apply the fertilizer when the leaves are dry to avoid fertilizer burn to the leaves and crowns.

## Against possible ill effects

## Pasteurization safeguards raw milk

The pasteurization of raw milk is a good safeguard against the possible risk of illness.

The heat of pasteurization kills disease-causing bacteria which can be present. Although milk from healthy cows isn't a source of bacteria which cause tuberculosis and undulant fever, even top quality raw milk can be contaminated with other harmful bacteria, such as salmonella.

Home pasteurization of raw milk will remove the risk of illness. To pasteurize, a double boiler is needed to heat the milk slowly. A makeshift double boiler can be made by placing a pan of milk inside a larger pan of boiling water.

A thermometer that registers in the range of 165 degrees is needed as well, since overheating can result in a cooked flavor.

Pour the milk into the top

of the double boiler and insert the thermometer. Heat over hot water, stirring constantly, until the temperature reaches 165 degrees.

Remove the top of the double boiler and set it in cold water. Keep the water cold by adding ice. Continue to stir until the milk is cold, then store in the refrigerator.

Raw milk also can be pasteurized in a microwave

oven. A temperature probe should be used. Stir the milk once or twice during the heating period to even the temperature throughout, then cool as directed.

Pasteurization doesn't destroy the food value of milk. Protein and calcium, the most important nutrients in milk, are unaffected. There is no evidence that pasteurization destroys enzymes needed by the body, either.

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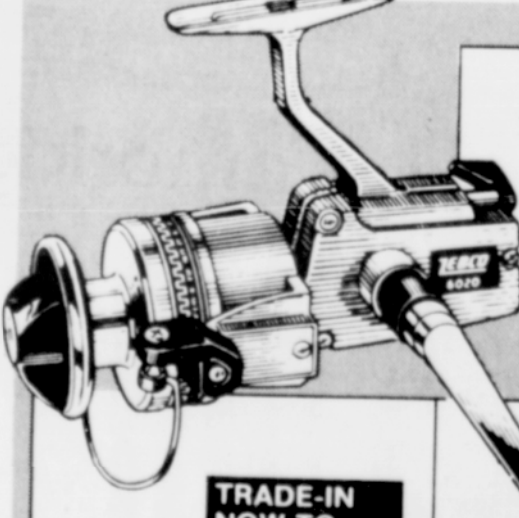
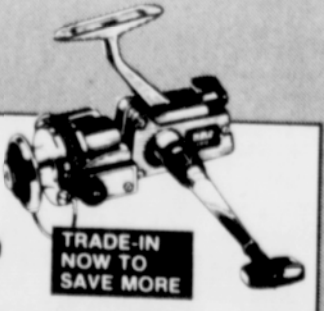


## Trade in Sale

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Trade in reel does not have to be in working order. Limit: one trade in reel per each 6000 reel purchased.

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| GRESHAM: Fri. 4/17 3 pm to 9 pm<br>Sat. 4/18 10 am to 5 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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