

## **STRAWBERRIES**

7515

Plants should be soaked in water for two hours and then planted immediately. If unable to plant right away-moisten roots and place in refrigerator crisper until you can plant, will store for up to 2 weeks. Strawberry plants must be planted with the crown of the plant level with the surface of the soil. Strawberries grow best in soil rich in organic matter such as leaf mold. Wet soggy locations should be avoided. Space plants 50 cm (20 in) apart. Be sure roots are spread out evenly and hang down full length without crowding. Pack the soil around the roots firmly. Water often until growth is well under way. Watering is most important when the fruit is sizing and ripening. The strawberry forms fruit buds for the next years crop from late August through to September. Proper care at this time can help ensure maximum yields the following year. In late August feed with T & T Rose & Strawberry Fertilizer. Winter cover is advisable in all exposed locations. A deep snow cover or covering with leaves mixed with twigs or a straw is suitable. Do not cover before the cold weather has set in. Remove the covering gradually as the weather warms

## WINTERING HANGING STRAWBERRIES

To ensure that your hanging strawberries survive the winter, the best method is to heel them in the ground and cover with leaves or straw. If left above ground in pots or barrels, the freezing and thawing in early spring will kill the plants. After the first killing frost, dig a hole for the pots so that the top of the pot will be at ground level, just as if they were planted in the ground. Firm in, water and cover for the winter. If you have a large barrel of strawberries, lay barrel on its side and cover as best you can with lots of leaves or straw. If possible dig a partial hole to lay barrel in and cover. Uncover in spring as you would regular strawberries.

