

The logo for T&T SEEDS is located at the top center of the page. It consists of the letters 'T&T' in a large, bold, green font, with 'SEEDS' in a smaller, bold, green font directly below it. To the right of the text is a circular emblem with a green border. Inside the emblem, there is a small illustration of a person in a hat and a dog, with the text 'EARLY IN THE ARCTIC' and 'FIRST IN YOUR GARDEN' around the perimeter.

T&T
SEEDS

EARLY
IN THE
ARCTIC
FIRST IN YOUR
GARDEN

Pineberries

Like the common garden strawberry, the Pineberry is a low-growing groundcover with trailing runners. The plant looks like other common strawberry plants right down to its delicate, white spring flowers. The Wonderful Pineberry strawberry variety's plants are partially self-pollinating, meaning one plant may set fruit without requiring cross-pollination from another variety, but it's better to have another variety blooming nearby. Pollination is aided by wind and beneficials like bees.

While still smaller than your standard red strawberries. Cross pollination with regular strawberries will not change the color or flavor of pineberries, and may, in fact, increase fruit set.

Pineberries can be grown in any container that can hold a quart of soil. They have a small root system, so a 10"-12" pot that is 8" deep would do. Drainage is the most important consideration. Hanging containers and rain gutters can be used as long as you can provide good drainage. You should be able to check the soil moisture. Although soggy soil can kill them, they need sufficient moisture in the soil at all times.

Hanging containers can be closely planted, with 1 plant to every 6 inches. Keep them in a place that receives 6 hours of direct sunlight or 8-10 hours very bright indirect light. Water the plants before the soil dries out. Fertilizer from early spring onwards to keep the plants in good health throughout the bearing season.

If you intend to have a patch of pineberries, prepare the bed as you normally would for garden strawberries. Choose an area that gets at least 6 hours sun, preferably in the morning. Yields may be higher in areas that get sunlight for 8 hours or more, but pineberries tend to take on a pinkish tint in high-light conditions. That doesn't spoil their flavor, however.

Avoid beds where you have grown nightshade family plants such as peppers, tomatoes and potatoes before. The fungal spores of Fusarium and Verticillium that affect these plants can lay dormant in the soil for about four years and destroy your pineberry plants. Keep a safe distance from blackberry and raspberry bushes that could transfer common pathogens to your strawberries.

Pineberries need space to spread, but they don't make as many runners as garden strawberries do. You can plant them closer, one plant every 12 inches.

Pineberries will grow without much trouble if they are kept happy with regular watering and feeding. Give them a liquid feed of high phosphorous, high potassium fertilizer every 3-4 weeks starting from mid-spring to promote flowering and fruit set. Weed the beds as and when required. Don't allow them to smother the small plants. Check for pests and diseases and take timely actions.

When the flowers start appearing, mulch around the plants to prevent the developing fruit from touching the ground. Pick the berries as they mature; this helps increase production. Since pineberries are everbearers like Alpine strawberries, you may have a long harvest season from late spring to fall.

Cut down on water towards late fall and stop fertilizing. This will toughen up the plants for overwintering. Mulch thickly around the plants but keep them only lightly covered to avoid crown rot.



STRAWBERRIES

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.

What happens if red strawberries ("scarlets") pollinate Pineberries?

Cross-pollination between a red strawberry variety and a Pineberry will likely increase fruit yield in both plants. Cross-pollinated plants will not develop a hybridized fruit, but if the fruit's seeds are planted, the plants that grow from those seeds would.

