

Suburban Gardener

Strawberry: The Favorite From Florida To Alaska

By BETTY FRANKEL

Strawberries are America's most popular small fruit.

They can be grown from Alaska to Florida, and they can be grown on almost any kind of soil, providing the proper variety is chosen.

The common cultivated strawberries are derived from wild species found growing on the Pacific coasts of North and South America and in the eastern part of North America.

There are varieties that bear their crop in June and there are so-called "everbearing" which produce a succession of fruits from July or August until frost.

Occasionally Alpine or other European species of strawberries are grown. The fruits of these are small but sweet and the plants make decorative edging.

Although strawberries grow on a wide variety of soils, the ideal soil is a deep sandy or gravelly loam overlying a substrata of moisture retentive soil.

Good drainage is important, and a soil well supplied with organic material will be soft and easy to work and not subject to drying out.

STRAWBERRY plants are usually set out in early spring, but they may be planted in fall if the plants are well chilled before very cold weather arrives.

There are several systems for growing strawberries. They may be grown in "hills" or in "matted rows." For hills the plants are set 12 to 18 inches apart in rows spaced two to three feet apart.

With the matted row system, the plants are set 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 feet apart in the rows and all the runners are allowed to develop.

Usually strawberries can have two or three seasons of fruiting before they have to be replanted.

WEEDING IS ONE of the main chores during the first growing season. The bed should be cultivated frequently to eliminate the weeds while they are still small.

It is beneficial to water if the fruit is ripening. An inch of water per week is desirable. Soil soakers of canvas or perforated plastic hose are a good means of irrigating.

Watering seems more important for a big yield than giving extra fertilizer. However, on infertile soils it is beneficial to use a complete chemical fertilizer.

STRAWBERRIES are easily propagated from young plants formed in July on the runners. These are best if taken from plants that have not been allowed to fruit the year the runners are taken.

A small pot of soil can be placed beneath the young plant which will root in it and can then be separated from the parent plant, or the runners can be pegged down or weighted with a small stone and the small plantlets rooted in the soil of the garden bed.

Strawberries may also be grown in a pot or box on a patio or window sill, or in a tiered pyramid in the garden.

They make a decorative accent when grown in a barrel and studded rows of 2 1/2-inch diameter holes 12 inches apart are spaced on the sides of the barrel.

Elevate the barrel on bricks and put a two-inch layer of stones or rubble in the bottom. Put a six-inch diameter pipe or cardboard tube in the center and fill it with broken bricks or coarse stones.

A half dozen plants can be set around the top. Put in a sunny spot sheltered from the wind. Water frequently through the central core.

Regardless of growing habits, flowers, absence or presence of berries, smooth or jagged leaves, this one characteristic of a compound with three leaflets as shown sets poison ivy apart from other plants.

Small, greenish-white flowers appear on the plant in early spring, Knake says. And by late summer, the plants often form clusters of waxy, white berries.

POISON IVY is established when buying an older home, he adds. That may mean an old-fashioned garden or a new addition.

A Fence In Time If you're putting in your own swimming pool, don't neglect to take it swimming pools are legally classified as "attractive nuisances" and owners are liable for injuries, even to trespassers.

CHILDREN and the established home, he adds. That may mean an old-fashioned garden or a new addition.

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Regardless of growing habits, flowers, absence or presence of berries, smooth or jagged leaves, this one characteristic of a compound with three leaflets as shown sets poison ivy apart from other plants.

Each compound leaf consists of three leaflets, Knake points out, however, that poison ivy leaves may be dull or glossy, and their length varies from two to four inches.

Small, greenish-white flowers appear on the plant in early spring, Knake says. And by late summer, the plants often form clusters of waxy, white berries.

POISON IVY may vine on fences or trees, may spread along the ground, or may appear as an erect shrub.

AVOID POISON IVY if possible. But if it grows on your property and is a nuisance, use an herbicide-obtain the safest and easiest control.

So, if you're going to buy an older home, be prepared to invest some time and money. With proper planning, you'll be amazed at the results.

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Leaflets Three, Then Let It Be!

You can get along with poison ivy two ways: Avoid it or kill it.

But before you can follow either plan, you have to know how to recognize the plant that causes many hours of uncomfortable itching for outdoor enthusiasts.

University of Illinois Extension Agronomist Elery Knake warns that poison ivy has several variable characteristics that make the plant difficult to identify.

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FIX-IT TIP advertisement with a starburst graphic and text about painting small pieces.

Use a compressed air sprayer to spray larger areas, and follow label directions for mixing the spray.

Knake suggests applying amitrole anytime after early spring growth when the leaves have reached full size.

You might consider a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T if you want to kill brush and woody plants where poison ivy grows.

With either chemical, Knake stresses the importance of following handling and application directions on the labels.

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FIX-IT TIP advertisement for RYOBI FLOORS, featuring carpet, tile, and sheet vinyl services.

FAMILY ROOMS ADDITIONS from \$1,585 REC. ROOMS advertisement with details on electrical, heating, and paneling.

Good's NURSERY SPECIAL SPRING CLEARANCE! advertisement listing various plants and prices.

Good's NURSERY advertisement for trees and shrubs with a \$1.00 off coupon.

CERAMIC TILE advertisement featuring a special price of \$159.00 for tub enclosure area.

FREE! 24-PAGE FULL COLOR CATALOG advertisement for home improvement ideas.

YOUR HOME COMES FIRST • NOW! "ORTHO" GARDEN PRODUCTS AT HALF PRICE! SAVE \$\$\$ AT PINE LUMBER CO., DIV.

LANDSCAPE AND PATIO SPECIALS advertisement for various garden products.

REDI-WEAVE INSTANT REDWOOD FENCING advertisement with a price list.

ROOFING advertisement for 235-LB. ROOFING at \$2.43 per bundle.

KILN-DRIED WHITE FIR Standard & Better advertisement with a price table.

SPRING SPECIAL! Featherlite PERMACLAD WHITE COMBINATION DOOR advertisement.

PANEL SPECIALS OF THE WEEK advertisement for vinyl paneling.

VINYL PANELING ON MAHOGANY advertisement with price list.

NEWEST in PANELING advertisement for rustic patio birch.

SALE! ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER advertisement.

10'-FT. 5"-K. ALUMINUM GUTTER advertisement with price list.

EVERY-DAY SAVINGS ON DO-IT-YOURSELF ITEMS advertisement.

KILN-DRIED WHITEWOODS ECONOMY advertisement with price list.

DRYWALL advertisement for gold bond drywall.

CEILING advertisement for gold bond ceiling.

BLACK DECKER DRILLS advertisement.

PITTSBURGH PAINTS SPECIAL SALE! advertisement.

BAKED ENAMEL ALUMINUM SIDING advertisement.

PINE LUMBER CO., DIV. WEST SIDE YARD: 12222 Inkster Road KE 2-9037 advertisement.