Cardinal Strawberry

Fragaria 'Cardinal'



Cardinal Strawberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Garden Strawberry

Description:

Sweeter than most strawberries and very soil adaptable; high yields of large berries with lots of flavour all season long; vigorous, and shows good disease resistance

Edible Qualities

Cardinal Strawberry is a perennial that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces red heart-shaped berries which are usually ready for picking from late spring to early fall. This variety is considered an everbearing type of strawberry, which means that it will repeatedly produce fruit across most of the season. The berries have a sweet taste.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Cardinal Strawberry features dainty white cup-shaped flowers with lemon yellow eyes along the stems from late spring to early summer. Its serrated round compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries from early to late summer.

This is an open herbaceous perennial with a spreading, ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage. This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Cardinal Strawberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Cardinal Strawberry will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen! This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Cardinal Strawberry is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.