Variegated Strawberry

Fragaria vesca 'Variegata'



Variegated Strawberry foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Ornamental Strawberry

Description:

A most distinctive groundcover if there ever was one, with mottled and variegated foliage in shades of white and green, showy white flowers, sparse red fruits are an added bonus; keep your guests guessing with this garden gem

Ornamental Features

Variegated Strawberry has masses of beautiful white daisy flowers with yellow eyes along the stems from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive round compound leaves remain dark green in color with showy white variegation and tinges of grayish green throughout the season. It produces red berries from early to late summer.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Strawberry is an open herbaceous perennial with a 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

Variegated Strawberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Variegated Strawberry will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 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 plant 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Variegated Strawberry is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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.