



Kids Projects

Growing strawberries

1. Strawberries are best grown in a pot or hanging basket. That way, the berries will be up off the ground where they're less likely to be eaten by snails, slugs and other pests.
2. Fill the pot or basket with a good quality Yates potting mix. The best ones have a red bar with ticks on the side. Add some Yates Acticote fertiliser.
3. Plant the strawberries in the mix and water well. If the pot's small, put in one strawberry plant. 3, 4 or 5 plants can go into bigger pots.
4. Put a layer of mulch on top of the potting mix. This helps stop the mix from drying out and keeps the berries clean ('cause they're not lying on the dirt!).
5. Feed the plants every two weeks with Thrive Flower & Fruit.
6. Pick the strawberries when they're a rich, ripe red. If strawberries are picked too early, they'll never taste as sweet.
7. After about 16 weeks the strawberries will be ready to harvest.

Notes:

Sometimes the strawberry plant will send out sideways shoots that are called runners. It's best to pull these off. After a couple of years the strawberry plants get tired so this is the time to allow some runners to grow and develop. Eventually they will form a new little plant at the end. This can be cut off and moved into some fresh soil in another part of the garden or into a new pot.

Remember to always:

- Wash your hands well after gardening.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen.