

Renovating June-bearing Strawberries



Renovation is the practice of cleaning up a June-bearing strawberry planting at the end of the harvest. Renovation stimulates new plant growth, increases productivity, and discourages diseases.

To renovate June-bearing strawberries, follow these steps a week or two after the harvest is over:

1. Mow or cut foliage to 2 to 3 inches above the plant crown (the tip of the compressed stem that produces leaves and flowers). Take care not to damage the crown.
2. Remove all debris including leaves, fallen fruit, and weeds from the planting.
3. Narrow rows to 12 inches wide. Narrow rows are more productive because plants shade each other less.
4. Thin out old, weak, or crowded plants. Aim for five or six plants per square foot of row.
5. Apply a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 (10% nitrogen by weight, 10% phosphorus by weight, 10% potassium by weight) according to package instructions.
6. Water plants until the rain returns. Give your plants about 1 to 2 inches of water per week.

Renovation is only undertaken with June-bearing strawberries because the harvest is over early enough to allow for regrowth of the plants before the fall. Everbearing and day-neutral strawberries are not renovated because they continue to produce fruit well into the fall.

If you cannot undertake renovation within a couple of weeks of the harvest — August 1, at the latest — do not cut or mow the foliage. Follow all other renovation steps as outlined above.

References

The following references on growing strawberries can be downloaded for free online:

Growing Strawberries in Your Home Garden (EC 1307) (revised 2020) <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1307>

Growing Small Fruits for the Home Garden (Home Garden Series) (WSU) (EM103E) <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/growing-small-fruits-for-the-home-garden-home-garden-series-replaces-eb1640>



July 20, 2025



WSU EXTENSION
Clallam County