STEIN'S GARDEN & HOME

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Ozark Beauty Strawberry

Fragaria 'Ozark Beauty'



Ozark Beauty Strawberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Garden Strawberry

Group/Class: Everbearing

Description:

Large, flavorful, high yielding fruit; watch for the runners that spread; can plant in hanging baskets and containers too; resistant to leaf spot and scorch; extremely vigorous plant with deep roots; very hardy



Ozark Beauty Strawberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Ozark Beauty Strawberry is a perennial that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces cherry red heart-shaped berries which are usually ready for picking from late spring to mid 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 and a firm texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Baking
- Preserves

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Features & Attributes

Ozark Beauty Strawberry features dainty white daisy flowers with yellow eyes along the stems from mid spring to mid summer. Its tomentose round compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season. It features an abundance of magnificent cherry red berries from late spring to early fall.

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 and bees 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, Ozark Beauty Strawberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Ozark Beauty Strawberry will grow to be about 8 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 is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This plant is typically 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 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.

Ozark Beauty 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

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