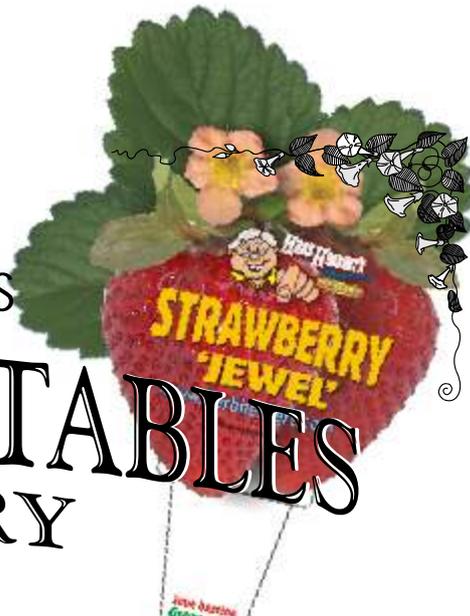


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# GOURMET VEGETABLES

## STRAWBERRY 'JEWEL'



### DESCRIPTION

Jewel is a new that has fast earned itself a reputation as best all-rounder and become a popular late season variety. While traditionally, large sized strawberries are renowned for being flavorless, Jewel manages to combine large size with full flavor. The berries are large and wedge shaped with bright red color, good firmness and high gloss. The plant is hardy, widely adapted and delivers consistent, moderate-to-high yields. Jewel is a moderate runner producer. The foliage is relatively compact and dark green.



### USES

Jewel is known for its good frozen fruit quality and appears to have a significant degree of post-harvest fruit rot resistance. Generally, strawberry leaves can be gathered in early summer and dried for use in herbal infusions. Roots can be lifted in autumn and dried for use in decoctions – internally they can assist in the treatment of diarrhoea, digestive upsets and gout; and externally for sunburn, skin blemishes, and discoloured teeth. The fruits

themselves are picked in summer and eaten fresh or made into dessert, juice, jam, syrup and wine.



### GROWTH

While generally a hardy variety, Jewel performs best in warm climates. Strawberries should not be planted where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers or eggplant have recently been grown as this will make them particularly susceptible to verticillium rot.



### CULTIVATION

Strawberries are very adaptable but prefer to grow in well dug,

moisture retaining and free draining soil with lots of organic matter. Jewel is particularly suited to heavy soils, full sun and needs to be protected from wind. Most strawberries are grown in a raised bed with plants spaced 12in/30cm apart. Plants should be set 18in/46cm apart in rows of 24in/61cm with 4-4½ ft/1.2-1.4m between rows. Leaves and flower buds will emerge shortly after planting. Pinching flowers during the first year in the garden will encourage plant production of runners. While it means no crop this year it will ensure a much better crop for several more years.

Surface mulching will prevent weeds, maintain an even soil temperature, keep fruit clean and prevent moisture loss in summer. Black polythene sheeting makes an excellent mulch for raised beds and fruiting is earlier because of the warmer soil. Spread the polythene and cut a small slit for each plant and make a depression in the soil below to direct water to roots. Strawberries do well in, tubs or barrels with holes cut in the sides but there are a few non-running varieties suited to this kind of growing. Strawberry beds should be replaced every three years. Jewel has no resistance to red stele or verticillium wilt.



Any acquisition should be directed to:

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