

# Construction season in the berry patch

I'm sure you have heard the saying, "In North Dakota, there are two seasons: the Winter Season and the Construction Season." If you haven't noticed, it's not winter. So that means it must be Construction Season.

In that light, let me announce that Strawberry Patch Construction Season will soon start. So put on your bright orange protection vest and go to the garden.

After the final harvest, remove weeds and then mow the strawberry foliage. Adjust your mower to its highest setting so the crowns of the plants are not damaged. If your mower cannot adjust to such a high setting, use a handheld clippers or shearers.

Next, use a hoe or roto-tiller to narrow each row to a width of 12–15 inches. Strawberry rows are usually maintained 36–42 inches from the center of one row to the center of an adjacent row.



Fertilize plants with six pounds of 10–10–10 or a similar fertilizer per 100 feet of row. These nutrients will be used in forming flower buds (for next year's crop) and runners. Fertilize plants again in mid-August. Use three pounds of 10–10–10 or a similar fertilizer per 100 feet of row.

That's it! A little work in summer will lead to bucketfuls of berries next spring! *DG*

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