

Renovating a Strawberry Patch

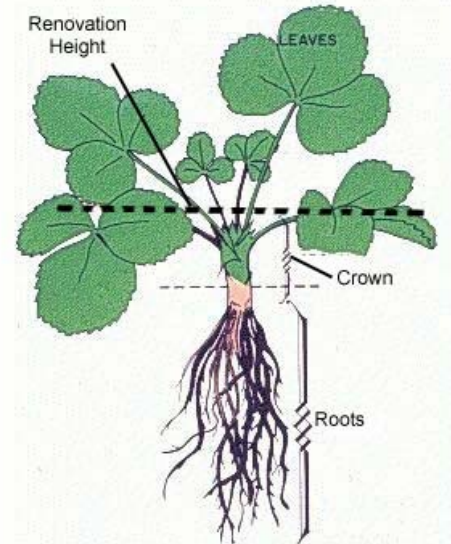
Breathing new life into you Patch

June Bearing have a lifespan of about seven years, however after 3 years production starts to significantly diminish and by year six berries are pretty much non-existent. I renovate June bearing every three years. To renovate a plant, cut off the leaves and tops just above the crown.

Don't cut into the crown or the plant will die. I can then get another two good years of full production from the plant. After the second year, I replace the plants with new ones propagated from runners.

Ever Bearing have a life of about 3-4 years. After the second year, I renovate the plants which will give me an additional year. I have 18" wide rows with 4 plants across, or 4 rows of plants approximately 6" apart. Every other year I will plant propagated runners in the inside 2 rows, and renovate the outside 2 rows. Then after 2 years, I replace the outside rows and renovate the inside rows, etc.

Day Neutral have a 2-year life, since they produce non-stop. I use the alternating row technique above each year, so the plants are always replaced after two years production.



Actually how close you plant depends if you are feeding the plants regularly (weekly) with a good high sulfur plant food. I use Jack's Classic Acid Special 17-6-6. The reason that nurseries recommend 16"-18" between plants is that you need room to root the runners. I control runner propagation and therefore can control spacing. Trust me when I tell you your production won't suffer from plants being crowded, assuming you feed them properly. Also make sure you get a good handle on the Ph.

Happy Growing.