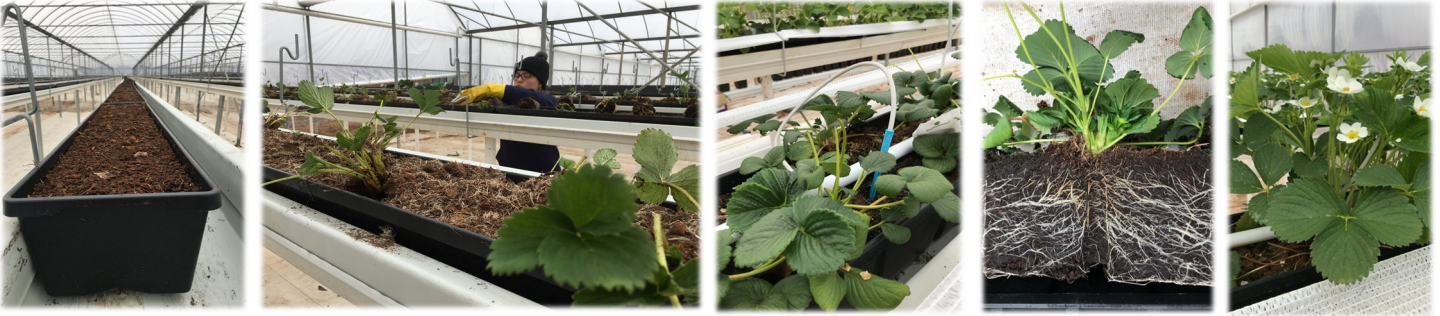


-Ready-to-grow-guide-

CONTAINER PRODUCTION

Planting

Space your plug plants at 6-8 plants/linear meter to a depth where the top of the plug is aligned with the substrate level. Plant into a substrate mixture to allow sufficient drainage, coir for example. 80cc plugs are recommended for outdoor soil production while the larger plugs are recommended for container production. There are many container options to choose from, our decision was based on our trough size, so choose what works with your system. You can expect 60 days from planting until first fruit. With everbearing varieties expect 30 days from flowering to first fruit.



Environment

Keep root system moist but not soggy. Alter irrigation strategies based on temperature, humidity and light levels. We recommend tracking relative humidity and temperature daily to optimize plant quality and fruit production decisions. Aim to keep temperature and humidity levels stable, without major fluctuations, by providing good air circulation. This will aid in disease and insect management because many life cycles require periods of high and low humidity.

Pest and disease

Biological pest controls are encouraged to limit use of pesticides and are most effective when insect populations are established. Banker plants attract insects, here at *ready-set-grow* we have utilized alyssum banker plants for establishment of the Pirate Bug (*Orius*). One of the best ways to control insects that target fresh fruit is to maintain a 2-3 day picking schedule and to keep the perimeters clean of long grasses and broad-leaved weeds. Diseases, such as Powdery Mildew and Botrytis, are common challenges facing berry growers. Beginning with robust, disease resilient plants and optimizing your growing environment are essential management practices for successful berry production.

