

Seed strawberries add charm to garden

DOVER, Del. — If looking for something different for the garden, one should consider seed grown strawberries. They're attractive enough to be in the flower garden, and the small red fruits have the flavor

and aroma characteristic of wild strawberries.

According to University of Delaware Extension horticulturists, seed strawberries are dwarf, runnerless plants which have long been popular in

Europe and with connoisseurs of fine fruits. Being runnerless, the plants require no thinning and stay in the place where they're planted. They make an attractive edging for either the vegetable or flower garden. They're the ideal form to plant in strawberry jars for use on a small patio or balcony, and can even be grown in pots or window boxes.

Seed for this novel form of strawberry is available from the more popular mail order seed catalogues in several varieties. Baron Solemacher — sometimes called the alpine strawberry — is an old favorite. Alexandria is an

excellent new everbearing variety that is a hardy evergreen perennial. Pretty white flowers, dark green foliage and abundant red fruits are some of its assets.

Seed strawberries are easy to grow. One can sow the seed in trays or pots as one would tomato seeds. When the plants are large enough to handle, they can be transferred to small pots. A soil with a mixture of sand and peatmoss can be used to be sure it is slightly acid.

Seed sown in March will make plants ready to set out in May. Plants will bear fruit in late summer. They should be set out in full sun or light shade.

Plants should be spaced about 12 to 15 inches apart. Like regular strawberries, planting on top of a slight ridge is a good practice as it keeps the crowns up above the soil. To save weeding, fill

in between the ridges with an organic mulch.

Though winter hardy, plants come through cold weather best when mulched with a covering of straw or evergreen branches. The mulch should be applied after freezing weather — usually about November 1. Mulch can be removed sometime in April.

Arbor Day to be April 28

HARRISBURG — Secretary Maurice K. Goddard, Department of Environmental Resources, recently called upon all Pennsylvanians to observe Arbor Day which this year will be celebrated on Friday, April 28.

The observance also highlights Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week, April 23 to 29, as a salute to the man who was Pennsylvania's first Commissioner of Forestry, 1895-1904, and who also was known as "the Father of Pennsylvania Forestry."

"Arbor Day, unlike other holidays which memorialize the past, actually proposes for the future and is the means of providing everyone with an opportunity to augment our natural resources by planting trees," said Secretary Goddard.

"Observing this holiday can be very simple. A youngster can plant a tree in his or her own backyard, provided room is available. It's also an ideal project for entire classes of school children. Service organizations can turn it into a worthwhile project to beautify the streets and open space in their own communities."

"Owners of idle land would do well to consider planting trees as an investment in the future. Idle land produces nothing, but planting trees on it has several beneficial effects: it increases its watershed value, improves

its wildlife potential, establishes a future income, increases its market value, adds beauty to the landscape, and protects the priceless soil."

Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man.

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