

# Strawberry farming – What you need to know/do before you start!

The second thing is to ensure that you've done your watering test, strawberries are 92 percent water so without water they are not going to thrive. Next, identify the land where you want to farm your strawberries and ensure the place where you want to farm strawberries does not have potatoes, capsicum, or tomatoes.

Next is to ensure that you have enough manure; either cow, sheep, or goat manure. Ensure that your manure is dry because when wet, you are going to get lumps when you mix it with the soil which can be a challenge. If you have a limited portion of land you can still do your strawberries in different ways; on raised beds, on vertical gardening using the multi-storey, using hydroponics, aquaponics, etc.

## Factors to Consider

The first thing that you need to do when venturing into organic strawberry farming is to ensure that you've done your soil and pathogen test. The second thing is to ensure that you've done your watering test, strawberries are 92 percent water so without water they are not going to thrive. Next, identify the land where you want to farm your strawberries and ensure the place where you want to farm strawberries does not have potatoes, capsicum, or tomatoes.

This is because these three crops have a soil-borne disease called fusarium wilt or verticillium wilt which can completely finish your strawberry farm as soon as you get started. Next is to ensure that you have enough manure; either cow, sheep, or goat manure. Also, ensure that you have visited a farmer who has grown strawberries so they can advise you on the do's and don'ts.

# Manure

Before venturing into organic strawberry farming, ensure that you have enough manure; either cow, sheep, or goat manure. Chicken manure is not recommended because it depreciates really quickly, and you want to ensure that your strawberries have enough manure as they are extremely heavy feeders.

You should also ensure that your manure is dry because when wet, you are going to get lumps when you mix it with the soil which can be a challenge. Pig manure is also not recommended because it is very rich in nematodes and you don't want to start introducing foreign components in your strawberry beds/farm. The only safe way to use pig manure is by testing it in the lab, alternatively use either cow, sheep, or goat manure.