

# What not to do when setting up your strawberry beds.

## Guidelines for setting beds

**Optimal bed size:** Ensure that your bed is at least two feet wide. If the bed is narrower, the fruits will come into contact with the soil. It is important to avoid this, as the recommended practice is to harvest, pack, and deliver strawberries while they are still hanging.

**Dome-shaped bed:** It is beneficial for the bed to have a dome shape rather than being flat. This helps prevent issues such as anthracnose or botrytis, especially when it rains. A dome-shaped bed allows water to drain properly and reduces the chances of fruit rot.

**Avoid walking on the bed:** Never step inside your strawberry bed as it compacts the soil, making it harder for water to penetrate. This can lead to water drainage problems and negatively impact plant health. Keep foot traffic limited to the pathways surrounding the bed.

**Do not use construction paper:** Avoid using construction paper as a ground cover in your strawberry bed. Over time, exposure to sunlight causes the paper to deteriorate and tear, leaving the soil exposed. This can result in rapid moisture loss, especially during hot seasons, and can lead to poor crop performance.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can create an optimal environment for your strawberry plants, promoting healthier growth and maximizing your harvest.

