Strawberry Farming

15 to 20,000 strawberry plants are planted per acre.

<https://www.ontarioberries.com/>

<http://www.agriforestbiotech.com/products/haskaps-honeyberries/>

<https://www.greenbarnnursery.ca/>

<https://keddynursery.com/our-catalog/#1471981712814-a730aa52-1737>

<https://gwallennursery.com/plant-stock-availability>

Suppliers

Strawberry Thyme

<http://www.strawberrytyme.com/>

1250 St. Johns Rd. R.R.#2  
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4K1  
Phone: 519-426-3099  
Fax: 519-426-2573  
Email: [**styme@kwic.com**](mailto:styme@kwic.com)

Carther Plants

30627 Jane Rd.,   
Thamesville, ON N0P 2K0  
Phone: 519-6955445  
Fax: 519-695 5452   
\*indicates growers who have plants grown according to guidelines of the Ontario Berry Growers Association Plant Propagation Program.

**Varieties**

**Veestar**

First picking about June 15 at Vineland. Berries are bright medium red, large, fairly firm, and have very good flavor. Very good for freezing and other processing uses. Plants are vigorous, runner well, and are very productive. They also are quite resistant to Verticillium wilt and have some resistance to Botrytis fruit rot.

**Kent**

First picking is about June 18 at Vineland. Berries are large, moderately firm and dark red. Plants are vigorous and productive. Performs best in eastern and northern Ontario.

**Cavendish**

Slightly earlier than Kent, with a fairly long harvest season. Berries are very large, firm, and bright red, but become very dark when over-mature.

**Micmac**

First picking is about June 20 at Vineland. Berries are large, light red, with light interiors. They have good flavour but are only fair as frozen pack.

**Sparkle**

First picking is about June 18 at Vineland. Especially suitable in northern Ontario. The other varieties listed are generally superior to Sparkle for southern Ontario.

**Bounty**

First picking about June 22 at Vineland. Berries are a medium red, somewhat seedy in appearance, large, fairly firm, and have excellent flavor. Good for freezing and other processing uses. Plants are vigorous, runner fairly well, and are very productive.

**Everbearing and Day-Neutral**

These varieties have not been outstanding in Ontario tests. They are generally less productive than regular varieties and performance varies greatly with location and season. Tribute and Tristar have given fairly good results. Plants of everbearers usually produce few runner plants so do best in the hill system.

**Performance Ratings of Frozen Strawberries**

**Table 1.**Performance Ratings of Frozen Strawberries Vineland

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variety** | **Color** | **Texture** | **Flavor** |
| **Veestar** | 6.4 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| **Kent** | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.4 |
| **Micmac** | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.4 |
| **Sparkle** | 5.8 | 4.5 | 5.9 |
| **Bounty** | 5.5 | 4.7 | 5.7 |

Ratings are averages for 4 - 12 years from 1973 to 1988 inclusive. Ratings are on a 0 to 9 scale and were made by 5 - 8 persons each year. 0 = very poor; 5 = acceptable; 9 = excellent. Berries were sliced and frozen as a 5 + 1 pack (5 parts berries + 1 part sugar by weight).

**Disease and Insect Control**

Various manufacturers produce pesticides for use on small fruit crops in home gardens. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and do not apply chemicals closer to picking than the number of days shown on the label.

**Related Links**

* [**Gardener's Handbook**](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/gardbk/ghtoc.html)
* [**Ontario Strawberry Plant Propagators and Plant Suppliers**](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/resource/berrypropstraw.htm)