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Strawberries in the Garden

Even though we love strawberries, since we get three to four crops from our raised beds each year, I never felt that we had enough room for a crop that only bears such a short period of time but remains in the bed all year.◆ That all changed when I realized that Josiah was interested in planting strawberries. I love to encourage my children, so I happily gave him one of our beds for early, mid, and late June bearing and Everbearing varieties.

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As I was gathering produce for our garden one day in May, I spied some red peeking beneath the massive green foliage that filled Josiah's bed.

 

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As soon as Josiah came home that day, I took him by the hand and led him outside to pick his first crop of strawberries.

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They amounted to only a handful of berries, but we were thrilled nonetheless.

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Although there were not enough for a pie or even for each of us to have a bowl with cream, I wanted him to feel special about growing his own strawberries, so I celebrated his first small batch of ripened berries by making mini shortcakes cut with 1" and 1"◆ biscuit cutters. For each serving, I placed a spoon full of sliced and sugared strawberries on the larger biscuit, a dollop of homemade whipped cream, topped with the smaller shortcake. They were adorable and very much appreciated.

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As the number of ripened berries grew, I began making strawberry pies, ten pies, in fact, more strawberry shortcakes, strawberries and truffles, and strawberries and cream—all from this small bed.

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The abundant harvest God gave us from such small beginnings was truly amazing and much appreciated.

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Strawberries should be planted in early spring, when the ground is cool and moist. They love full sun but will produce in less. From here I recommend that you read up on how to plant, cultivate, pinch, and propagate, because we did not follow the directions.

   