

### Growth site requirements

If the right variety and growth site are chosen, strawberries can be cultivated at 1,500 m above sea level. Valley floors and hollows should be avoided, as cold spots can form. Equally unsuitable are heavy, compact soils that are prone to sogginess or very limy ( $\text{pH} > 7$ ). Deep, humus-rich clay and loamy, sandy soils are ideal. The influence of preceding crops should not be underestimated. For example, cereals work well as a preceding crop, whereas potatoes or turnips greatly increase the risk of root diseases and nematode infestation.

### Planting depth

Refrigerated plants: the root neck must be covered with earth.

Potted plants: spread a light covering of earth over the root balls.

Planting at the right depth is key!

Seedlings that are planted too shallow are susceptible to frost damage and dehydration. The rhizome is less able to send out new roots.

Seedlings that are planted too deep, so that the crown is partially covered with earth, take longer to develop – or, in the worst-case scenario, don't develop at all – and are often affected by rhizome diseases.

### Watering requirements

Strawberry cultivation requires a lot of water. It is particularly important to ensure sufficient watering just after planting. This is also the case as the leaves, flowers and fruit start to develop on the plants.

Insufficient watering increases crop and quality losses. On the other hand, overwatering restricts root production and causes the roots and rhizome to rot.