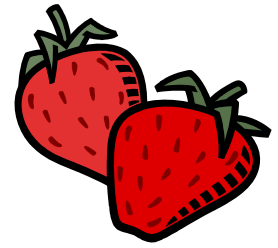


# THE BERRY BUCKET



Strawberries are a specialty crop produced in Illinois. Information about Illinois strawberry farms available at: [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/strawberries/farms.html](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/strawberries/farms.html). Learn more about strawberry growth with this activity.

## Book Suggestions:

Pick, Pull, Snap!: Where Once a Flower Bloomed by Lola Schaefer (ISBN-13: 0-688-1784-0)

Strawberry by Jennifer Coldrey (ISBN-13: 978038209024)

Plant Plumbing: A Book About Roots and Stems by Susan Blackaby (ISBN 1-4048-0109-X)

## Materials Needed:

1 Red paper cup	Black Marker	Leaf Fabric
1 Green Pipe Cleaner	Straw	1 Drinking Straw
Hole Punch	2 or 3 Strands of Yarn	Flowers or Flower Fabric
Green Craft Foam or Cardstock		

## Directions:

1. Trace and cut out the top of the strawberry using green craft foam or card stock.
2. Punch a hole on each side of the cup.
3. Punch 2 holes in the green strawberry top.
4. Next, attach top to cup using the green pipe cleaner. Pull the pipe cleaner through the strawberry top and hook ends through the holes in the cup.
5. Draw the seeds of the strawberry onto the cup with the black marker. On average, there are 200 seeds on a strawberry. Strawberries are the only fruit with seeds on the outside.
6. Cut the drinking straw into fourths.
7. Then, place the following items into the cup:
  - Yarn: This represents the fibrous root system, which provides the plant with nutrients and water.
  - Drinking Straw (One fourth): This represents the main stem or the crown. This is the sturdy part of the plant where strawberry growth starts
  - Leaf Fabric: Strawberry plants have leaves that grow in threes. Under the leaves is where you pick the strawberries. Strawberry plants also develop runners which help produce new plants.
  - Flower: Strawberry blossoms are always white. These flowers develop into strawberries.
  - Straw : It is used to cover the plants during the winter season to keep them safe from frost and warm, too.

## Fun Strawberry Stats:

- Seventy percent of a strawberry's roots are located in the top three inches of soil.
- Strawberries are a member of the rose family.
- Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in the spring.
- Strawberries are grown in every state in the United States and every province of Canada.
- The flavor of strawberries is influenced by weather, the variety and stage of ripeness when harvested.