

Canadian Seed Variety of Strawberries Introduced to Nepal's Agricultural Industry

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Product Information

When talking about agriculture it is such a large industry that includes and influences the world. There are many different contributors globally and Canada is definitely a high contributor. Being more specific, fruits and vegetables play an important part in not only the agricultural industry but as well as overall health. Focusing more on the strawberry which is apart of the fruit family, it is a popular well known food all around the globe.

So what is the intentional purpose of this wonderful fruit? Consumption is its number one contribution to the people around the world. It can be made into other different ways of consumption as well. An international company that breeds, grows and sells multiple varieties of seeds is Thompson & Morgan. They supply seeds for a variety of different needs, garden beds, planters, etc. One very popular variety of strawberry that is available through this company is the Vesca Strawberry (Thompson & Morgan A, 2014). This plant is different than other varieties, as the berries themselves are grown at the top of the plant. With the berries located at the top, this helps reduce them rotting and the chance of being susceptible for any kind of disease that may affect them (Thompson & Morgan A, 2014). Another advantage with this variety is that when they develop and mature there are mass amounts of the fruits being grown (Thompson & Morgan A, 2014). The plant is a great prospect for people who enjoy the fruit that is produced and it does have some positives to it.

Strawberries do require machinery to properly plant the crop properly. For commercial use, the strawberry plant is not actually put in the soil as a seed, producers will purchase seedlings from breeders or greenhouses that produce and grow mass amounts of the strawberry seeds. Initially for any plant to successfully grow, it needs to have a proper growing environment for either seed or seedling. Haygrove is a company that provides machinery for those producers that require not the standard equipment to plant their crops (Haygrove, 2014). It is very important to prepare the seed bed for any plant and to establish the proper bed for the strawberries Haygrove offers a machine called the "One-Pass Bedmaker". In just one pass with this piece of equipment, it can produce the proper measurement of the ideal bed height and width, which is roughly 40cm in height and 40-90 cm in width (Haygrove, 2014). This set up contains a robust proven cultivator, it also ensures that the soil ahead of the forming beds is a good mix of soil before being raised (Haygrove, 2014). Another job is have a roller that firms the soil on the top and sides to help prevent any slumps after the raised bed has been formed (Haygrove, 2014). Another very helpful component to the One-Pass Bedmaker is that it includes a bed poly layer which ensures that the plastic that covers the soil that has been raised is secure, and pressed firmly into its place (Haygrove, 2014). The pricing of this product however is not listed, but would be well over \$20,000 which may not be the most beneficial for Nepal to use. It also depends on the amount of land and area that is being used to plant the strawberries. If there is many acreage being used for the production of the fruit, then it could be possibly beneficial for all the producers to use in that area.

To use the piece of machinery a tractor is required one that is able to have hydraulic features, as the machine does require this feature. Depending on if the equipment is new or old will have a large impact on the price. Another addition to using

the tractor would be the usage of fuel, which is always fluctuating and can be pricey. Realistically the new the piece of the equipment the higher the price of it will be.

But it really does depend on the area of land being worked. A more labour intensive but cheaper way of making raised beds is by using a simple plough to help with the movement of soil. It could be done by a tractor if available or being pulled by an animal such as a cow or horse that is strong enough to pull it.

With any sector of the agricultural industry there will be labour that is required some may differ from less to more intensive. To be more realistic, the best method that would be more beneficial for saving money would be to just use a plough to form the seed beds being pulled by an animal.

To grow strawberries at their optimum value are some important things to keep in mind for this crop. The soil needs to be observed and make sure that it is well drained soil which contributes for the preparation before the seeds or seedlings go into the ground (Ricketson, 2004). One important thing to keep in mind is what was in the soil before planting the strawberries there. If there were any weeds present, they must be killed and removed from that soil to help prevent interfering and affecting the growth of the strawberries (Ricketson, 2004). The soil must contain a good quantity of organic matter, which is essential for any plant nutrient take up along with air and water movement (Ricketson, 2004). Organic matter could consist of manure produced by livestock, chopped leaves and straw, as well as peat mosses are all acceptable sources of organic matter (Ricketson, 2004). The next step is the planting process, which happens at the appropriate season. Nepal has a much more different climate range than in Canada.

The amount of labour that is required would be objected to being fairly high, from forming the seed beds, planting, possibly weeding, watering, and picking, all requires work, and the pay would be a cost that may increase as the work increases.

Once the fruit is picked it may be enjoyed in many forms, by itself, jams and jellies, into baked goods, juices, and even into wines. The fruit itself is a well-known food to help improve overall health of an individual.

References:

Haygrove unknown. 2014. *Specialist Harvesting Machine*, Haygrove tunnels. Retrieved from:
<http://www.haygrove.com/harvesting-machinery/machines/one-pass-bedmaker/>

Ricketson, C.L., Fisher, Pam 2004, April 13. *Strawberries for Home Gardens*, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Retrieved from:
<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/hgstrawb.htm#planting>

Thompson & Morgan A, unknown, 2014. *Vegetable & Herb Seeds- Strawberry Vesca*. Thompson & Morgan. Retrieved from:
http://www.thompsonmorgan.ca/product/Strawberry-Vesca/Vegetable_and_Herb_Seeds

Potential Resources:

<http://www.thompson-morgan.com/how-to-grow-strawberries>

<http://ecs.com.np/place/the-strawberry-culture>

http://www.np.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/reports/annual_reports/UNDP_NP_UNDP%20Nepal%20Annual%20Report%202013.pdf

<http://forumgeografic.ro/2010/603/>

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/jf60221a042>

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<http://heeman.ca/heemans-strawberries/strawberry-varieties/>