# UK strawberry harvest produces record-breaking giant berries amid perfect spring weather



The UK has recently experienced extraordinarily favourable conditions for strawberry cultivation, culminating in an exceptional harvest that boasts berries so large they are described as "too big to fit in your mouth." This remarkable growth has been attributed to nearly three weeks of optimal sunny weather combined with cool nights—conditions that are rare but perfect for strawberry production.

Bartosz Pinkosz, operations director at the Summer Berry Company, which is based in Colworth, West Sussex, expressed his astonishment at the size of the berries this season, noting, "In my 19 years of experience, I have never seen anything like it." This sentiment is echoed across the industry, with reports indicating that many growers are harvesting strawberries that are between 10% and 20% larger than usual, with some reaching a weight of 50 grams. An average berry typically weighs around 30 grams, making the current yield particularly noteworthy.

This year's unusually sunny spring weather can be contrasted with the dark, cold conditions of January and February, which were the gloomiest since the 1970s. However, March and April offered exceptional brightness, with March noted for being the sunniest since records began in 1910. The combination of this brilliant sun and the cooler temperatures at night allows strawberries to ripen slowly, fostering better cellular expansion and leading to the creation of larger fruits. Pinkosz elaborated, stating, “The slower the development of the fruits, the more time to expand the cells and create the bigger berry.” Such climatic conditions have resulted not only in the size of the berries but also in their flavour and texture, as confirmed by industry representatives like Nick Marston, chair of British Berry Growers.

As Wimbledon approaches in July, strawberry enthusiasts can anticipate enjoying these giant, flavoursome berries, especially as the previous year’s harvest was hampered by poor growing conditions. Marston pointed out that this year’s crop appears "tastier and firmer," primarily due to the conducive weather patterns that have allowed for a greater sugar content. The anticipated influx of strawberries in supermarkets is set to delight tennis fans seeking the traditional fruit pairing with the sport, with Tesco reportedly expecting to receive up to 200 tonnes from West Sussex growers.

Despite the optimism surrounding the harvest, there are emerging concerns about potential drought conditions as the dry spring progresses. Marston has highlighted the necessity for water conservation, especially for growers in the south-east of England. Fortunately, modern agricultural practices like drip irrigation mean that water usage is being managed more effectively. Still, the spectre of water shortages looms, raising questions about sustainability for the rest of the growing season.

The upcoming months may see UK strawberries becoming a quintessential staple for summer festivities, as they not only contribute to consumer delight but are also a reflection of innovative agricultural practices responding to changing weather patterns. As the season unfolds, both growers and consumers alike remain hopeful that these giant strawberries will not only be plentiful but also exhibit the calibre of taste and quality that British strawberries are famed for.

As consumers prepare to indulge in this season’s bounty, the implications of weather on crop yields and water resources serve as a reminder of the delicate balance within agriculture, signalling a need for continuous adaptation in the face of environmental changes.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 2
2. Paragraph 2: 1, 3, 4
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5. Paragraph 5: 1, 3
6. Paragraph 6: 1, 4, 6
7. Paragraph 7: 1, 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/may/18/giant-uk-strawberries-weather-growers> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/may/18/giant-uk-strawberries-weather-growers> - An article from The Guardian reports that the UK's sunny spring weather has provided perfect conditions for producing exceptionally large strawberries. Growers, such as Bartosz Pinkosz of the Summer Berry Company, have observed berries that are 10% to 20% larger than usual, with some reaching 50g in size. The combination of abundant sunshine and cool nights has contributed to this bumper crop, leading to strawberries so large that they are 'too big to fit in your mouth'.
3. <https://www.industryintel.com/news/tesco-to-receive-200-tonnes-of-british-strawberries-from-west-sussex-growers-early-harvest-attributed-to-three-weeks-of-sunshine-creates-50-tonne-increase-from-2024-169874617704> - A press release from Industry Intelligence announces that Tesco will receive 200 tonnes of British strawberries from West Sussex growers. The early harvest, attributed to nearly three weeks of sunshine, has resulted in a 50-tonne increase compared to the same period in 2024. The strawberries, grown by The Summer Berry Company in Colworth, near Chichester, are expected to arrive in Tesco stores in time for Easter, marking a significant boost in production due to favorable weather conditions.
4. <https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9723327/early-british-strawberries-arrive-after-warm-spring-weather/> - An article from FreshPlaza reports that the first commercial quantities of British-grown strawberries for 2025 have started arriving in Tesco stores following nearly three weeks of warm, sunny weather. The early harvest, led by growers from The Summer Berry Company in Colworth, West Sussex, is expected to reach shoppers in time for Easter. Favorable weather conditions have helped produce nearly 200 tonnes of strawberries so far—around 50 tonnes more than the same period last year.
5. <https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2025/04/16/warm-weather-boosts-commercial-volumes-of-uk-strawberries/> - An article from FreshFruitPortal reports that after nearly three weeks of sunshine, the first commercial quantities of British-grown strawberries for 2025 have been harvested. The strawberries, produced by The Summer Berry Company in Colworth, near Chichester, West Sussex, are expected to begin arriving at Tesco stores in time for Easter. The warm weather has contributed to the production of approximately 440,000 pounds of strawberries, around 110,000 pounds more than the same period last year.
6. <https://www.tridge.com/ko/weekly-product-updates/w16-2025-strawberry-weekly-update> - A weekly update from Tridge reports that a three-week stretch of sunny weather in southern England has triggered an early surge in strawberry production, ensuring British-grown strawberries were available in supermarkets in time for Easter. Due to favorable weather and innovative cultivation methods, The Summer Berry Company in West Sussex has already produced 200 metric tons, 50 metric tons more than during the same period last year. Warm days combined with cool nights have created ideal growing conditions, resulting in healthy plants and sweet, high-quality fruit.
7. <https://www.tridge.com/ko/weekly-product-updates/w17-2025-strawberry-weekly-update> - A weekly update from Tridge reports that strawberry production in the United Kingdom has received a welcome boost from recent warm and sunny weather, enabling an early harvest of nearly 200 tons, about 50 tons more than the same period last year. Grown in West Sussex by The Summer Berry Company, these strawberries are already appearing on supermarket shelves, including Tesco, with around 500 thousand baskets distributed across East and West Sussex and surrounding areas.