



Time to Grow - By Toni Rose

I LOVE strawberries. And what's not to love? They are sweet, juicy, delicious, and healthy. I'm trying to grow strawberries in one of my larger raised garden beds. Thus far, I've enjoyed a little fruit from lots of labor. But as the tiny plants grow and shoot out runners, I'm excited about the potential for more fruit next year. I weed, and water, and wait. Recently, I was reading about winter strawberry care. I discovered that it is important to cover the plants with some type of mulch to protect them and to keep them warm. Typically, this activity should be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas. If the mulching is performed too early, it will cause the plants to overheat during warmer winter days. If covered too late, the plants will likely freeze and die, unprotected.



Timing is a crucial element of strawberry growth and a crucial element of marital growth. As I become a student of strawberries, I am reminded how important it is to become a student of my spouse.

Wise timing is critical for a healthy marriage.

Consider:

- Is your spouse a morning person or night person? Be sure to choose the best times for difficult conversations.
- Is your spouse going through a challenging time (job, family, health, other) and needing an extra dose of grace and compassion?
- Does your spouse need friend time or down time - guilt free, with your permission and encouragement?
- Proverbs 25:11 (NLT) "Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket."
- Ecclesiastes 3:7 (NLT) "A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak."
- Choose wisely 😊



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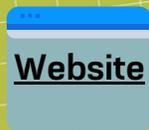
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