Strawberry Tree

Arbutus menziesii

General Information
- <u>Edible fruit;</u> can be used in jams, syrup and liquor
- <u>Sun Exposure:</u> full sun to part shade
- <u>Water needs</u>: reasonably drought tolerant after it establishes itself
- <u>Cold Tolerance:</u> tolerates cold to 10° F
- <u>Days to harvest:</u> 1 year to fruit
- <u>Harvest time:</u> same as bloom time, October to December

Planting Guide
- <u>Propagation:</u> The best way is from seed: sow on the surface of a compost indoors as soon as the fruit is ripe. If no ripe seeds are available, then stored seeds should be soaked for 5 - 6 days in warm water before being sown in late winter. Do not allow the compost to become dry. The seed usually germinates well in the middle to late spring. Should be placed in a lightly shaded position. Transplant them into individual pots as soon as they are large enough to handle and grow them on light shade indoors for at least their first winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions when they are 20 - 30cm tall. The best time for this is in late spring or early summer after the last frost. For propagation from cuttings see link
- <u>Location:</u> young tree should be planted on the ground with direct sunlight
- <u>Time of the year to plant</u>: Fall, or spring after last frost
- <u>Initial watering:</u> water regularly for the first year

Care Guide
- <u>Irrigation</u>: Needs periodic deep waterings during the summer and fall. Does not need irrigation during winter

- Pruning: Pruning is not usually necessary unless branches are growing the wrong way or there are problems like dead, diseased, or dying branches. If you do wish to prune, do so at the end of winter. Avoid pruning in fall.
- Fertilizer: doesn't require it, but can benefit from fertilizer every few years after establishment.

Sources:
- [Growing the Strawberry Tree—Arbutus unedo](#)
- [Plant Portrait - Arbutus unedo, The Strawberry Tree](#)
- https://inlandvalleygardenplanner.org/plants/arbutus-unedo/
- https://www.backyardgardener.com/plantname/arbutus-unedo-strawberry-tree/