

Small Fruits

RHUBARB

Needs full sun and does best in acidic well drained soil. Mulch plants annually with well composted manure. Do not harvest the first year. Begin harvesting the second year by pulling the thickest, healthiest stalks off gently, but do not take more than half of the stalks at one time. Grown for the stalks ONLY, leaves contain oxalic acid and are poisonous.

Valentine – Very popular deep red color, very sweet

BLACKBERRIES

Plant in early spring. Prefers soil with good organic matter and good drainage. Set plants 4-6 feet apart in rows 6 to 9 feet apart. Too much fertilizer gives lush growth and few berries. Keep moist but not wet and never let them dry out between waterings. The berries come off the vine with the core.

Darrow – One of the best available and does well in colder regions. Produces large crops of 1” berries, very hardy, sweet with just the right amount of tartness. Ripens in late July and produces fruit off 1 year old canes.

Black Satin – Thornless, heavy yields, ripens in July. Sweet flavor, great for jams, fresh eating and pastries. Mildew tolerant and highly resistant to Septoria Leaf Spot and Anthracnose.

BLUEBERRIES

Prefers soil rich in organic material, such as peat or composted soils. Does best in a soil pH level around 5.0. If necessary, decrease soil pH level by adding Aluminum Sulphate. Likes a well drained soil. Plant 5 feet apart in rows 8 ft apart. Mulch with peat up to a depth of about 2”. Do not prune the first couple of years except to remove broken branches. After 3 years, prune out older, weakened canes. This pruning will encourage generous crops of large berries. Blueberries require two varieties to cross-pollinate.

Bluecrop - Early variety, exceptionally productive big crop. Medium to large fruit. Can't be beat for big crops and cold weather. Ripens mid July, tart, stores well, good for cooking.

Jersey – Mid to late variety, ripens in July and August. Very vigorous grower, produces large light berries. Old standard variety with crack-resistant fruit. Grows 6-7' tall. Excellent ornamental shrub.

Blueray – Mid-season, longer bloom season, produces large crops.

HORSE-RADISH

Member of the Mustard family. Strong growing long lived perennial. Thrives in ordinary garden soil. Planted in the spring it will grow to a height of 1 ½ to 3 feet tall. Harvest the roots in the fall. Can be ground to form relish. Docklike leaves and seedless white flowers. Moisture loving.

RASPBERRIES

Prefers soil with good organic matter and good drainage. Keep moist, not wet, never allow to dry out. Need a well-balanced fertilizer, too much fertilizer produces lush growth and few berries. Most varieties bear on 1-year-old canes. Most varieties of raspberries are upright and can be pruned short enough to stand erect by themselves, however they can be trained to a fence or a trellis. Fruit comes off the vine without the core. Plants are usually hardier than blackberries. Never plant red and black together because the reds carry a disease that spreads to the black. Yellows and purples may be planted with reds or blacks.

Black – Grow on stiff upright plants

Logan – Virus free, very hardy, heavy yields of large glossy, good quality berries. Holds up in drought and tolerates mosaic and other raspberry diseases.

Red – Trailing plant, sends up root suckers

Heritage – Virus free, everbearing large consistent crops, fruits in June and late August till a hard frost. Stiff caned, needs little support, very hardy.

Latham – This June-Bearing variety is the most popular red. Brilliant red berries ripen over a three week period beginning in mid-July. Has tart flavor and is good for eating, freezing or canning.

September – Everbearing ripens slightly later than Heritage, more upright than Heritage. Major crops of medium to large berries produced in the fall. One of the best in cold climates.

Purple

Brandy Wine – Reddish purple hybrid, with huge berries. Everbearing, bears in June and August. Grows on sturdy upright plant.

Yellow

Fall Gold – Everbearing, superior golden berries all summer and fall. Small groups are produced each time. Best when grown on a trellis.

CURRENT

Very decorative in leaf and in fruit. Can tolerate more shade than other fruits. Green to violet flowers in the spring are not too showy. Well drained, organic soil is best but will tolerate heavy soils. Currants require annual pruning. They fruit on new wood and on spurs (short twigs specialized for fruiting) of two and three year old wood. Eight to ten canes are usually optimum on an established plant. Currants yield 2 quarts of berries per plant annually and are generally harvested in summer. Extremely hardy. Do not plant gooseberry and currants near any five-needled pines such as White Pine.

Red Lake – Finest of all currants with large berries. Berries grow in long easy to pick clusters. Ripens mid-late July. Great for jellies, self-pollinating, 3-4' tall plants.

GRAPES

Grape Vines require support and full sun. Good air circulation is important because grapes are subject to disease. Grapes require little fertilization for optimum development. Pruning is best done in the winter or early spring before the sap begins to flow. Grapes are formed on 1 year old wood only.

During the first dormant season leave the best shoot and cut all others at base. The second growing season when new shoots reach 12" long, select the most vigorous ones, and pinch off others at the trunk. Tie remaining shoots to the support. When the shoots reach the branching point at the top of the arbor, pinch them to force branching. Let two strong branches grow, pinching any others at 8 to 10" long. During the second dormant season cut away side shoots leaving only the trunk and two major branches. Pruning must be done carefully and thoroughly each year in order to keep grape vine producing good crops and from becoming over grown.

Red

Canadice – Seedless variety with rich delicate flavor. Hardy vines are disease resistant. Ripens in early August, and is good for jellies and white wine. Redskin with clear flesh. One of the hardiest seedless grapes available.

Blue

Concord – seeded and seedless – Blue medium to large berries ripens late September. Great for jellies.

White

Niagra – Large white variety produces large bunches of slipskin berries ripening in early September. Good for fresh eating, wines, and jellies. Sometimes called the White Concord. Vigorous hardy producer.

Himrod – Seedless variety is one of the hardiest of white grapes. Ripens in mid August, and is great for fresh eating.

NANKING CHERRY

Prunus tomentosa – Also known as the bush cherry. Grows 6-8' tall and 10' wide. Very hardy for northern gardens. Attractive white flowers with a pink blush bloom in early spring before the leaves appear. Along with blueberries, this plant makes an attractive landscape plant as well as small fruit. Tasty red cherries are about 1/3 of an inch in size and are great for just fresh eating or in jams and jellies. This plant is a great conservation plant and wildlife love it.



Helping Hand Hints



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