Blackmoor
Fruit Growers Handbook

FIRST
FOR
FRUIT

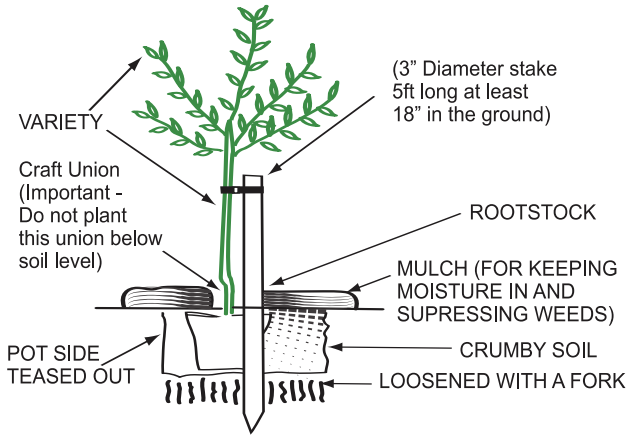
Introduction

Fruit trees and soft fruit bushes are a very sound investment. Properly cared for they respond by producing attractive blossom, in turn followed by a crop of fresh luscious fruit. The trees add a new dimension to your garden and the soft fruit gives added interest.

Planting Position
For most fruits choose a warm sheltered position, avoiding wet or shaded spots, although soft fruit will tolerate some shade. Avoid north walls except when planning blackberries which will crop successfully, albeit, a little later in the season. Crops are likely to be spares in frosty situations. If birds are troublesome a fruit cage can be erected.

Soil Preparation
Prior to planting eliminate all perennial weeds. If the soil is acid mix in lime. Add organic matter such as compost or manure to light sandy soils. On heavier soils, which are poorly drained, planting on raised beds is beneficial. The incorporation of sand is also helpful. Before planting dig in a handful of fertiliser such as 'Growmore' and a light sprinkling of Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts) to each planting position.

FIG.1 Fruit and Nut Tree



Staking and Planting Fruit
Select a fine day for planting when the soil is not sticky. When planting a tree it is necessary to drive a 5-8 cm diameter stake 45-60 cm into the soil. The length above the soil should leave the top 10 cm clear of the tree head. Upright "Minarettes" also require an individual stake but this needs to be 1.8 metres above the soil level.

Espalier and fan-trained trees are planted against a wall or free standing fence for training as illustrated (Figs 5 & 6). Individual stakes are not required.

Blackberries, loganberries, tayberries and raspberries, collectively known as cane-fruit, require the support of wire work. It is desirable to erect this before planning. Sometimes existing fences and walls can be utilised by attaching parallel wires with "Vine eyes" or equivalent. Fencing details are shown under "Soft Fruit Culture".

Having inserted the stake or erected the fence-work dig a hole around the stake or selected position at the base of the fence. For trees the hole needs to be 30 cm deep and 60 cm across, (see Fig 1) but in the case of soft fruit it can be smaller. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole with a fork. Before removing the plant from its container ensure that the compost is thoroughly moist by soaking the pot in a bucket of water. Now the plant can be removed.

Note: In the case of raspberries there can be 10 canes in the pot. If so, carefully separate them and plant individually. Having removed the plan, tease out the outer root region which has been restrained by the pot. When planting trees, position these in the hole so that the trunk (stem) is 8 cm from the stake, or in the case of trained trees, position in the desired spot below the fence or against the wall. Keep the stem 8 cm from the wall.

The union must be at least 10 cm above the surrounding soil level and the eventual height of the union can easily be adjusted by adding sufficient soil to the bottom of the hole. When you are satisfied that the tree is in position, start returning the broken up soil to the hole.

Planting guide

Shaking the tree occasionally helps the soil to trickle in. Firm planting is essential and this can be achieved with 'foot' pressure. Finally, level off the surface ensuring that the original pot compost is covered.

FIG.2A Blackcurrant

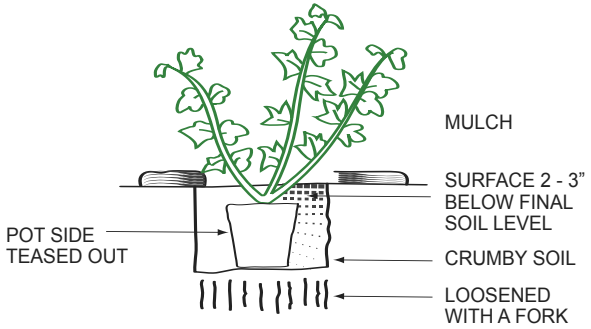


FIG.2B Redcurrant or Gooseberry

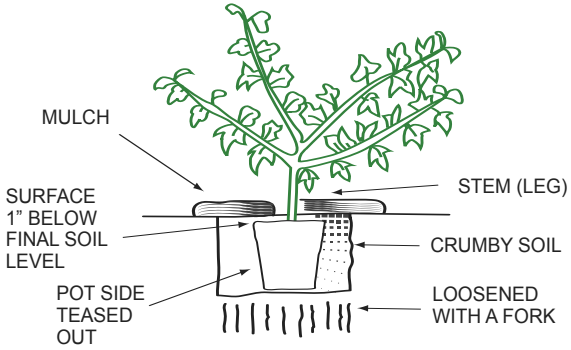
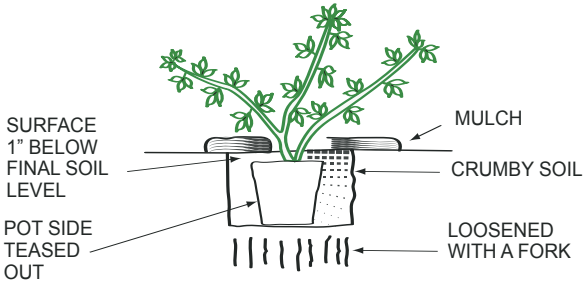


FIG.2C Loganberry, Blackberry and Tayberry



Soft- fruit plants are planted in the same manner as trees with very slight modification and of course, there is no graft union or stake to consider) see Figs 2A, 2B, 2C & 2D). The important variations are that blackcurrants require planting rather deeper so the plant crown is 8 cm below the surface, whereas raspberry canes require shallow planting, with the original level only 2.5 cm below the surface. Plants may or may not have leaf according with the time of year when planted.

FIG.3 Fig (Pit)

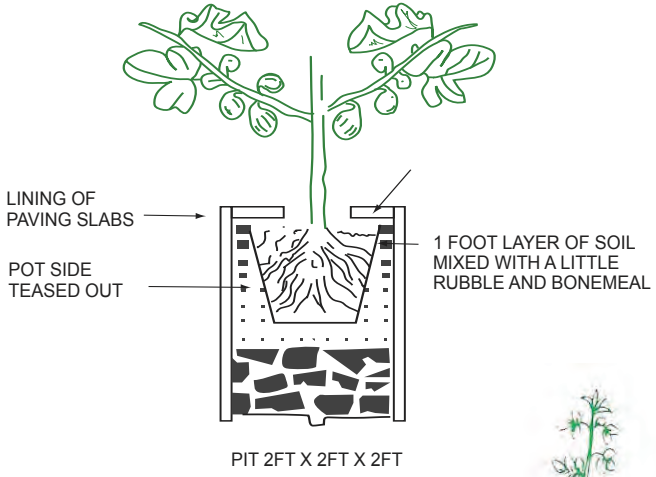
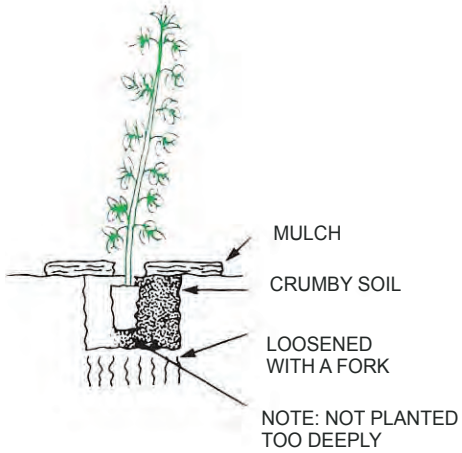


FIG.2D Rasberry and Grape



Selection and caring for your fruit trees

Tying Fruit trees and soft fruit plants
Secure the tree to the stake with a figure eight to chainlock strapping or other suitable purpose-made tie. In the case of trained trees tie in the branches to the supports with soft tying material. Wire-netting or plastic spiral guards should also be applied if pests are a problem and damage to the stem is anticipated. Soft fruit bushes generally do not need tying at planting with the exception of some cane fruit.

Mulching
This helps to retain moisture in the soil and also suppresses weeds. Mulch 50 cm around the plant base with a 5cm layer of peat, well rotted manure, compost, forest bark or suitable equivalent. Whatever is used keep the mulch clear of the plant stem. If the plants are in rows the mulch can be continuous allowing 30-50 cm on each side.

Fruit trees are composed of two parts

a) The Rootstock – governs the vigour and tree size.
b) The Variety – the fruit bearing section

We have selected the rootstocks for you, namely M9, M26 and MM106 for the apples, and Quince 'A' for the pears. These rootstocks produce compact bush trees ideal for garden use. They can be planted 2.5 - 3 metres apart. Staking is advisable.

Note – our bush apple trees available on M27 rootstock produce very small trees and we recommend them for growing in pots on patios or 1.8 metres apart in very small gardens.

For the dwarf plums PIXY is our choice, plant 2.5-3 metres apart. For the cherries we use COLT, a dwarf stock, but it does require 4.5-5.5 metres spacing.

Fan and Espalier apples require a fairly strong stock and we favour MM.106. Similarly the pears are often Quince 'A', all need planting 4.5 metres apart. Plum and peach fans may be on either St. Julian 'A' or Pixy. If on St. Julian 'A' plant 4.5 metres apart, but only 3.5 metres if on Pixy;

Figs are grown on their own roots and when planting, the rooting area must be restricted to prevent the tree from becoming vigorous, large and unfruitful.
See FIG PIT (Fig 3E) or by planting in a large tub or pot.

Figs, Cobnuts and Filberts are grown on their own roots. Grapes may be grafted onto a rootstock or grown on their own roots.

You may not have come across 'Minarettes' before, by this method of training a number of apple varieties may be grown closely together. In fact, if you have decided to plant these they are normally on M.26 and can be planted 75 cm – 1 metre apart. To get the best from this type of tree our pruning instructions must be carefully followed.

Choice of Variety
Having chosen your variety it is usually essential to select a second variety since cross pollination is necessary for successful cropping. Refer to the pollination table on the back cover.

The cherry varieties Morello and Stella are self-fertile and can therefore be planted singly. Some of our plums and pears are also self-fertile but cross pollination is beneficial. Peaches are also self-fertile but pollination can be improved by picking off a few well opened flowers are carefully brushing these across the other opened flowers.

Note – Apples and pears do not cross pollinate each other.

Figs, Cobnuts, Filberts and Grapes are self-fertile.

Pruning

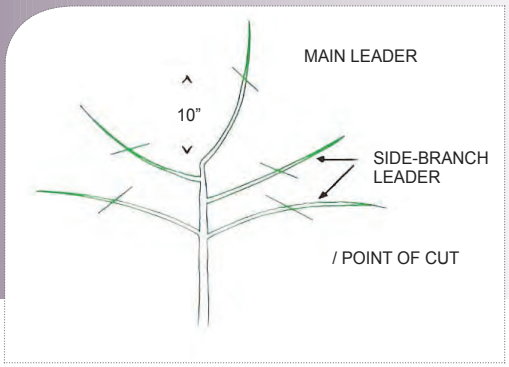


FIG.3

1. Pruning - First Winter Pruning

Apples and Pears

Prune main leader back to 25 cm. Cut just above a bud facing the opposite way to the previous year (gives straight stem). Cut back the remaining side branch leaders by half their length to a bud facing outwards.

Plums

As for apples and pears, but trimming time differs. Prune in March/April – just as bud is shooting. Paint cuts.

Cherries

As for plums, cutting in March/April. Paint cuts.

Cobnuts and Filberts

Cut off any branches below 30 cm. Cut back main and side branch leaders to 20 cm.

2. Bush trees Summer Pruning - First Year

Apples and Pears

In mid August cut laterals not required for branch leaders to three leaves (about 10 cm), see Fig.4. Do not prune the branch leaders or main leader.

Note – Some new branch leaders will have been produced by the main leader cut lst winter.

Plums

Treat as for apples but also shorten the main leader to 25 cm and the branch leaders by a third. Note: From now on little pruning is required, except to remove crossing, rubbing, broken or dead shoots, preferably in July/August (since this avoids period of silver – leaf infection). Paint wounds. Plums produce fruit on young wood.

Cherries

Cherries are not summer pruned.

Cobnuts and Filberts

Cut off any branches below 30 cm. Cut back main and side branch leaders to 20 cm.

3. Bush - Second Winter Pruning

Apples and Pears

Similar to first winter pruning. Main leader again cut to 25 cm. New branch leaders as before cut to half length. Existing branch leaders cut by one third, all to outward buds.

Plums

None

Cherries

Since these are not pruned during summer, pruning is now required but delay until March. Pruning is identical to apples and pears (see 3a). In years to come little pruning is required.

Cobnuts and Filberts

Cut off any branches below 30 cm. Cut back main and side branch leaders to 20 cm.

Figs

In April (after risk of frosts) cut out each alternate young shoot to 1 bud.

4. Bush - Subsequent Summer Pruning Bush

Apples and Pears

See Fig 4. After mid August cut laterals to three leaves (about 10 cm) and sub laterals to one leaf above basal cluster. Do not prune any shoots which are shorter than 20 cm. Leave branch leader under water.

Plums

After first year little pruning is required but leaders may be lightly tipped if growth is weak.

Cherries

Only summer prune if there is branch breakage or dieback. Pain wounds.

Cobnuts and Filberts

Summer pruning is done in August and is called “brutting”. This means breaking by hand the strong laterals (30 cm long) of the current seasons’ growth, but leave other branch leaders until winter, then cut back as in Fig 3.

Pruning

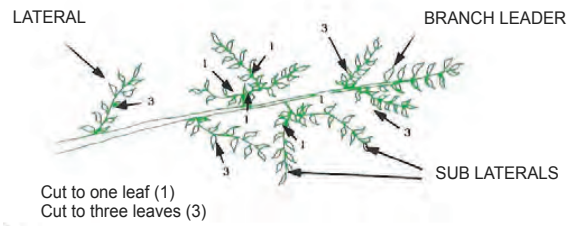


FIG.4

5. Bush - Subsequent Summer Pruning Bush

Apples and Pears

When the tree reaches the desired height of 2.2-2.5 metres cut the main leader back to point of origin every winter. Sometimes a certain amount of branch removal is required as well as spur thinning.

Plums

Plums are not winter pruned.

Cherries

Prune in March. Leader tipping should not be required unless more branch leaders are required. If there are too many strong shoots in the centre of the tree, some may be removed completely. As the tree ages, occasional old shoots can be shortened back to encourage young wood. Remove crossing, rubbing, damaged or diseased shoots. Pain wounds.

Cobnuts and Filbert nuts

Thin branches to maintain the open centre (goblet) shape (5 to 6 branches). Shorten branches by cutting back to a side bud or weak side shoot at 1.8 to 2.2 metres.

Figs

Thin out alternative young shoots by cutting to one bud in April.

Espalier Pruning in Winter/Spring Following planting

- Shorten main leader to tired wire. If not reached do not prune.
- Cut side branch leaders back by one third.
- Shorten any side shoots (laterals) on side branches to 7-10 cm.
- Spur back any shoots arising from central stem.

Espalier Summer Prunning

Mid August

- Shorten laterals on side branches to 10 cm.
- Shorten any laterals (shoots growing from laterals) to 5-7 cm.
- Do not prune any shoots which are shorter than 20 cm.
- Do not prune leaders.
- Tie in the main leader and the selected shoots for the third tier.
- Remove unwanted shoots from central stem. Tie in side branch leaders.

Successive Winter Pruning

- Shorten main leader to appropriate wire.
- Shorten side branch leaders by one third.
- When main leader or branch leaders have extended as far as required cut back each year to point of origin.
- If new growth has occurred after summer pruning cut back to a new bud.

Note – Apples and pears can be grown as ‘fans. Prune as described for espaliers but there will not be a main central leader.

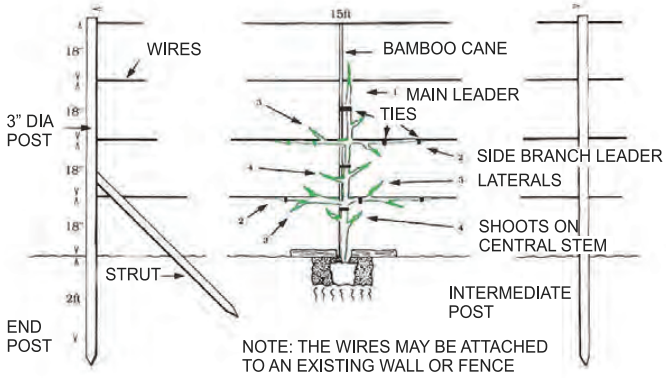
Fan Plums and Peaches - Spring Pruning after Planting

- Shorten branch leaders by one third. With peaches dead wood often occurs which must be cut out.
- Tie shoots to canes forming framework if not already done. As growth starts rub out inward shoots if against wall.

Summer Pruning Plums (June-July)

- Pinch shoots not required for branch leaders back to 12 cm.
- From mid August to September cut branch leaders back to about 8 cm.

FIG.5 Espalier - Wirework and Planting



Pruning

Successive Spring/Summer Pruning - Plums

Repeat as in previous years but note that more branch leaders will need to be tied in so as to make fullest use of the wall. If the tree becomes too crowded thin out some shoots in August.

Summer Pruning Peaches (May-end of August)

Peaches crop on young wood produced the previous year so new shoots need to be retained every 10 cm along the branches left un-pruned. Cut back any surplus shoots to 3 cm. When the retained shoots are 45 cm long pinch out the growing tip. Do not forget to retain branch leaders which should not be pinched back. The retained shoots should also be tied in during late summer. The following May these shoots produce extension growth and side shoots. All but two of these side shoots are pinched back to two leaves. However the side shoot at the base is not pinched and a reserve is kept further up. Allow these to grow to 45 cm long and then pinch out the tip. The extension growth is pinched when it is 20 cm long. After cropping cut back the fruited shoots to the best side shoot, if the reserve is used shorten the other retained shoot right back. Finally tie the young growth in.

Special Spring Treatment Peaches

- Prune out all dead wood.
- Shorten branch leaders by one third.
- Ensure there are enough branch leaders to make complete use of wall.

Minaretts -Winter Pruning after planting

- Shorten the central leader by one third (see Fig 7.).
- The lateral shoots should have been summer pruned but if this was not
- done shorten them to 8 cm.

Minatettes - Summer Pruning

After mid August cut laterals to three leaves, about 10 cm, and sub laterals to one leaf above basal cluster. Do not prune any shoots which are shorter than 20 cm, and leave central leader until winter.

Minatettes - Subsequent Winter Pruning

Little Winter pruning is required, but central leader is shortened by one third. If secondary growth has taken place after summer pruning then cut back below this to a good bud. When the central stem has reached maximum height cut back unwanted growth to point of origin each winter. When the tree becomes too crowded remove some spurs.

FIG.6 Fans - Wirework and Planting

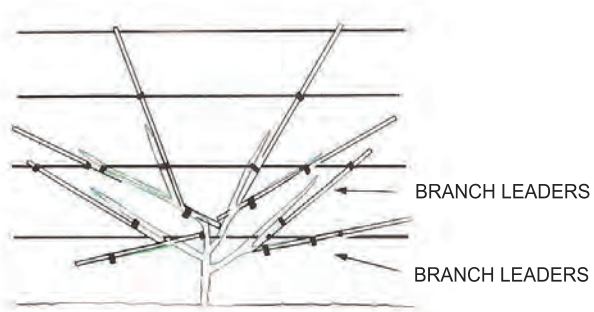
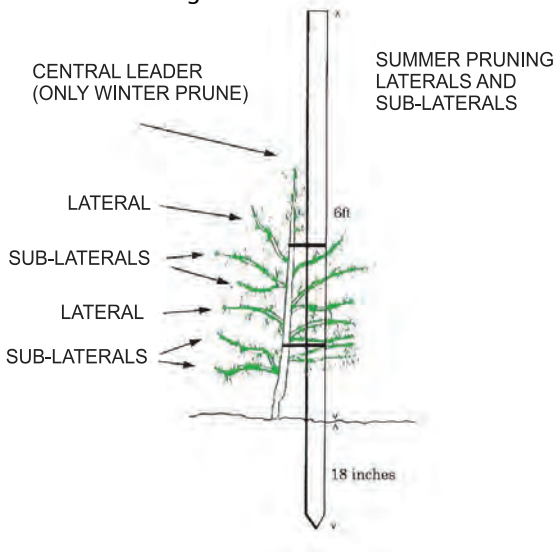


FIG.7 Minatette - Prior to Summer Pruning



Soft Fruit Culture

Soft fruit canes and bushes commence cropping the year after planting. They are therefore, a particularly good investment. They are inexpensive to buy, produce good yields, do not require much space and are particularly valuable for small gardens.

Choice of Variety
All the varieties we offer are suitable for your garden and if given reasonable care will produce acceptable crops. Soft fruit do not require another variety for pollination so you can therefore restrict your choice to one variety.

Planting Distances

Blackcurrants,Redcurrants,Whitecurrants and Gooseberries
1.5 metres apart x 1.5 metres between rows (on very good soil allow an extra 30 cm between rows)

Raspberries
45cm apart x 1.8 metres between rows

Blackberries, Loganberries, Tayberries
3 metres between plants

Grapes
1.8 metres between plants

Pruning and Training

Blackcurrants
If planting between November and March ensure all shoots are cut down to 5 cm from soil surface immediately after planting. The year after planting no pruning is required, but thereafter in subsequent years remove about a third of the old wood (darker in colour), cutting some shoots to soil level. If summer planting, prune between November and March as if newly planted.

Redcurrants, Whitecurrants and Gooseberries
The bushes have a short stem or 'leg' so remove any suckers from the root system. If planting is taking place from November to March prune immediately, shortening the leading shoots by about half their length. This will encourage the formation of a number of branch leaders. These branch leaders should be shortened by about a third the following winter, this process being repeated every winter thereafter. Fruiting is encouraged by 'spur' pruning the newly produced young lateral growths or side shoots to 5 cm during July. Summer planted plants may be summer pruned although the branch leaders must not be pruned until the following winter.

FIG.8

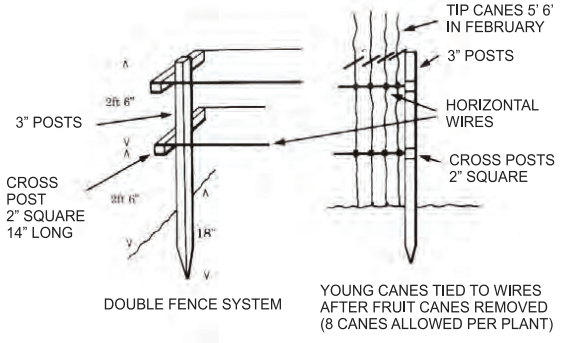


FIG.9

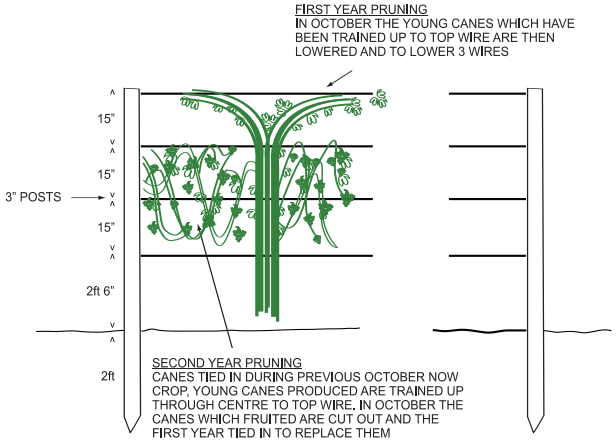
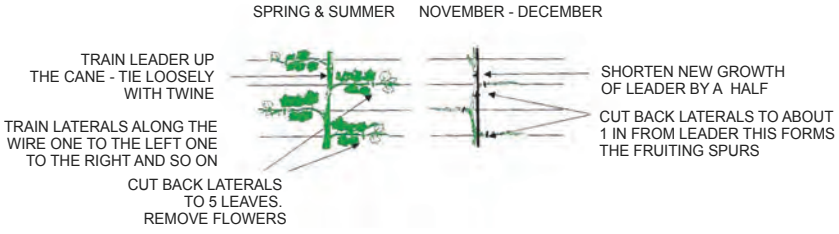


FIG.10



Soft Fruit Culture

Raspberries
Cut the canes down to 23 cm above soil after planting. This stub may be removed when the new shoots appear from beneath the soil. The young canes are later tied in 10 cm apart to a fence system for cropping the following year. There will be no crop in the first year except in the case of the Autumn fruiting varieties which crop on first year canes. For all varieties the canes which have fruited are cut down to ground level immediately after fruiting.

Blackberries, Loganberries and Tayberries
If planting takes place between November and March cut the shoots back to 23 cm immediately. From spring onwards tie the young shoots in as they grow, these will crop the following year. If summer planting takes place the young shoots produced may also be tied in, but if the shoots are weak cut them back the following winter and start again. Various training systems may be used. A simple method is illustrated below. Subsequent pruning is similar to raspberries. Canes which have fruited are cut down to ground level after fruiting.

Grapes
Grapes are usually trained on wires against a wall. Wires are placed horizontally at 30 cm apart. Plant grapes carefully with support. Trim main leader to 60 cm. Trim all sides laterals to 1 bud. In Spring and summer tie laterals to wires to left and right of main stem and cut back to 5 leaves. For 2-3 years allow only 1 bunch of fruit per lateral. On mature vines allow 2 or 3 bunches per lateral.

Blueberries
If you have purchased your blueberry plant during its winter dormant season, then there is no need to do anything except plant it, until the plant emerges from the winter. You will notice that the buds swell as spring draws nearer. The large, fat buds near the tips of the shoots are your flowers and fruit this season and the smaller ones are shoots and leaves. As temperatures rise, these buds burst open and growth starts.

SPRING When the leaves have emerged fully, usually towards the end of April, your plant will need its first feed. A balanced ericaceous fertiliser (rhododendron/azalea fertiliser) is recommended.

SUMMER Repeat feeding the plant at the end of June because blueberries have a second stage of growth in late summer. The whole of your plants' root system should be kept moist throughout the growing season, preferably using rainwater as this tends to be acidic. As the fruit starts to colour, try to cover the plants with bird netting to avoid theft of your precious blueberries. In mid to late summer, long canes will grow up through the bush. This is the framework for the future. Pinching out the tips of this growth will encourage a bushy plant, as done for fuchsias and chrysanthemums.

WINTER Pruning is carried out after leaf fall, in mid winter while the plants are dormant. For the first two years after planting, your bushes will need very little pruning, except general tidying up and shortening of very long canes to encourage branching.

Goji Berries
Once established, goji berries are incredibly easy to grow. They'll grow in almost any type of soil, and can even thrive in poor soil, as they are used to the mountainous regions in the Himalayas. They are reasonably drought-tolerant, and will even grow in partial shade (though you'll get more berries from them if you grow them in full sun).

You can grow them from seed, or buy them as young plants. Buying young plants is far easier, as goji berry seeds are prone to rot in the compost and you're less likely to get good results. The seedlings also need to be kept in warm conditions for 12 months, so for practical reasons, buying young plants is the more sensible option.

Once they're a year old, however, they are perfectly winter hardy. Unchecked, they grow into a thick bush that reaches up to three metres tall, with vines that can grow to nearly four metres. If regularly pruned, they will form attractive small bushes that produce more berries as a result.

Growing
When your plants first arrive it is likely they will just look like bare twigs with some roots on. Don't worry, this is normal. If planted straight away and watered well they will grow leaves within two-three weeks. Dig a hole around 50cm deep and wide and place the goji berry plant in it.

Firm the soil around the plant and water well. Leave about 1m between plants and mulch the area around the stems with leaf mould or garden compost to keep the soil moist and well nourished. You can even grow the bushes into a goji berry hedge; simply plant them 1m apart in a straight line.

Soft Fruit Culture

Flowers
After two years the bushes will start to fruit, and from four years you'll start to get very heavy yields. In early summer the bushes will produce small, delicate, trumpet-shaped flowers that will be either white or purple. Both coloured flowers can feature on one plant, so they provide visual interest before the berry production begins.

The berries will begin to set in autumn. The ripe fruit are sweet and juicy and almost shiny in appearance. The flowers will continue to bloom right up until the first frosts, however, so your plants will be red, white and purple throughout late summer and autumn.

They are beautiful to have in your garden, delicious, nutritious, and cheap and easy to grow. If you want health-boosting berries on tap you should consider investing in a goji berry bush or two.

Rhubarb
There can be few gardens without a clump or two of rhubarb, often tucked away in a corner and seldom giving of its best. Yet it is a crop that amply repays a little care and attention.

Establishing the Rhubarb Bed
A new rhubarb bed is best raised from divisions planted out in November, although it can be set out as late as March. Old crowns should be split, using a spade, into wedge shaped pieces with two or three buds on the outer edge, the inner part can usually be pared away with a knife (although old crowns are often hollow). Many growers, especially older ones, say that you should always leave the crowns on the surface to expose them to a hard frost before splitting them.

Rhubarb is not fussy as to soil but should be planted in slightly raised beds if the soil is very heavy. It does however need an open site, as it will not tolerate shade. Prepare the soil carefully by digging to two spits (spade depths), the roots go deep, and work in plenty of farmyard manure or compost as you go. In choosing a site remember that the leaves are heavy and reach at least 2 feet (60 cm) all round the crown. Set the divisions 21/2-3 ft (75-90 cm) apart with the buds at or just below the surface.

It is strongly recommended that you do not gather any sticks in the first year of a new rhubarb bed. The first good crop will come in the second or third year following planting.

Growing Rhubarb
Once you have established your plants the first basic principle of rhubarb growing is that plants should be kept dry in winter and moist in summer. A covering of leaves applied in October and removed in February will help in winter and a mulch of compost, leaf mould or farmyard manure applied in April will keep moisture in the soil during the summer. Always make sure, however, that the soil is thoroughly moist before applying this summer mulch. If in doubt, water well in dry seasons.

The second basic principle is to remember that rhubarb is essentially a leaf crop (no leaves, no stems) and that leaf crops need nitrogen. If you use farmyard manure for your summer mulch additional nitrogen will probably not be needed but a light dressing of nitrogenous fertiliser in March seldom goes amiss. Most of the rhubarb I see on the show-bench, or on allotments, shows signs of chronic starvation.

An established bed needs little attention beyond feeding and watering. The heavy foliage smothers most weeds. The only serious diseases are viruses which make the plant yellow and weakly - these are incurable and affected plants should be destroyed. Slugs can be a problem - they seldom make serious attacks on the rhubarb itself, but use the rhubarb bed as a hotel from which to decimate other crops. You must, however, remove flower spikes as they appear and clear away dead leaves throughout summer and autumn.

A well-planted rhubarb bed will yield a satisfactory crop for ten or twelve years until the crowns get too many small buds. They should then be lifted, divided and replanted - leaving some crowns untouched to ensure continuity of supply.

Forcing Rhubarb
Rhubarb can be forced by lifting crowns in November and potting them up to be grown in the cellar, beneath the greenhouse staging or more simply by putting a bucket over the crowns in January.

Generally speaking rhubarb is best harvested for a period of four months from the time you take the first sticks. Three months if you have forced crowns.

Calender of Care

Calender of Care
To achieve the best results from your fruit we commend you to follow this simple guide which is laid out in seasonal form. You may question whether to spray your trees with chemical sprays. In our own nursery we encourage the control of pests by natural predators. These are usually larger than the pests and generally quick moving.

We therefore, use friendly chemicals and reduce spraying to a minimum. Some pests can be controlled adequately by trapping, others by hand picking. Similarly, some diseases can be reduced by selective pruning.

Even the serious peach leaf curl disease can be prevented by ensuring the branches and new leaves are kept dry during February and March by construction of a polythene cover. If you do decide to use chemical sprays they must be carefully used according to the manufacturers instructions.

November
- Check condition of stakes, ties, soft fruit supports and permanent labels.
- Winter pruning may commence.
- Check condition of stored fruit.
- Clear up leaf residue and place on the compost heap.
- Lightly cultivate soil around raspberries to expose raspberry beetle grubs to predators.

December
- Winter pruning can continue including newly planted trees and bushes.
- Spray all dormant trees with Winter Wash once in 3 years to control moss and lichen if desired.
- Check condition of stored fruit.

January
- Winter pruning can continue including newly planted trees and bushes.
- Spraying of Winter Wash can be done if not already applied.
- Check condition of stored fruit.
- Protect peach trees with temporary wood and polythene structure against leaf curl.

February
- Winter pruning as before.
- Check apple and pear trees for canker, clean wounds and treat them with propriety canker paint.
- Spread ‘Growmore’ fertiliser around all fruit trees and soft fruit (50 grams per square metre).
- Eliminate all weeds.
- Tip tall raspberry canes back to 1.7 metres.

March
- Prune newly planted plum trees if not pruned in summer.
- Prune cherries, pain wounds (See pruning)
- Apply additional mulch if required.
- Spray apple and pear trees with systematic fungicide at bud burst against scab and mildew. Repeat fortnightly until July if desired.
- Aphids must be controlled. In light attacks soft soap may be satisfactory and it certainly will not harm the natural predators. In severe cases our choice would be Bug Clear, an effective chemical which harms little else. But if in doubt seek advice at the Garden centre. Do not spray when in blossom, as you may harm bees. Check regularly and repeat as necessary until July if desired.
- Control weeds and grass for rest of summer.

April
- Check for aphids and caterpillars on all fruit. If light attack of caterpillars squash eggs and hand pick. If you prefer to spray we suggest a biological control method, but again ask advice at the garden centre.
- Prune off mildewed shoots when seen.
- Control weeds and grass.

May
- Remove blossoms from trees in first year of growth.
- Continue checking for aphids and caterpillars and spray if attack is severe.
- If weather or soil is dry water all trees and bushes around the plant base fortnightly. Mulching will help to conserve this moisture and pushing a fork in lightly will also help the water to penetrate.
- Control weeds and grass.
- Examine gooseberry bushes. If American gooseberry mildew is seen spray with Systhane.

Calender of Care

June
- Continue aphid and caterpillar inspection and take relevant action.
- Avoid spraying apple and pears for codling moth by installing 'Pheromone' traps early in the month. Use one trap for five trees.
- Spray raspberry flowers to combat raspberry beetle grubs if these occurred during the previous year.
- Water trees if dry. Lightly thin the fruit if you think crop is too heavy using sharp pointed scissors. Leave two fruits per cluster.
- Tie in soft fruit shoots. Cut down the 23 cm stub of newly planted raspberries and other cane fruit now that the young shoots are growing from soil level.
- Pick first soft fruit – protect from birds.
- Control weeds and grass.

July
- If you decide to spray be very careful to avoid spraying when fruit is ripening.
- Check stakes and ties. Continue tying in cane fruit.
- Protect fruit from birds if possible.
- Control weeds.
- Prop up branches which are cropping heavily.
- Prune all plum trees now to avoid infection with silver leaf.
- Harvest Stella cherries and continue picking soft fruit.
- Assist control of codling moth on apples and pears by wrapping corrugated paper around trunk and branches to attract pupating caterpillars. Remove and destroy in October.
- Summer prune redcurrants, whitecurrants and gooseberries.

August
- Harvest Oullins Golden Gage in mid August.
- Harvest Victoria Plums in from late August.
- Pick early apples as required.
- Pick Morello cherries in August and September.
- Summer prune apple and pear trees.
- Remove all damaged fruit from trees and pick up windfalls.
- Cut out the canes which have fruited from summer cropping raspberries and tie in the new cane.
- Continue picking soft fruit.

September
- Harvest Marjorie's Seedling Plum (September-October).
- Harvest Merryweather Damson (September – October).
- Harvest apples and pears – store if required.
- Collect up damaged and discarded fruit and destroy.
- Pick Autumn fruiting raspberries.
- Prune summer fruiting raspberries and other cane fruit as soon as they have cropped.
- Tie in this year's new shoots of all cane-fruit, if not already completed.

October
- Complete fruit harvesting. Ensure trees and bushes are cleared and all discarded fruit is collected and destroyed.
- After harvesting spray with Bordeaux mixture. Repeat again when half of the leaves have fallen as this helps to control canker.
- Remove old greasebands and corrugated paper from trees and destroy.
- Check stored fruit for spots.
- Apply new greasebands to trees.
- Complete pruning of can fruit and tying in of young shoots.
- Towards end of month cut autumn fruiting raspberries to soil level.

An easy guide to recognise common pests and diseases

Aphids
Small winged or wingless insects found clustered together on leaves and shoots in large numbers. Often coloured green (greenfly) but other colours possible. Cause curling and distortion of leaves and growing tips. Sometimes, especially in the case of plums, 'honeydew' is excreted and 'sooty' type moulds then on the leaves and shoots.

Caterpillars
Several species attack fruit trees but the most common are the caterpillar of the Winter Moth. The small greenish caterpillars have a dark stripe along their backs and three stripes on each side and arch their backs when moving ('Loopers'). They feed on young leaves. Flowers and fruitlets in the spring sometimes causing almost total loss of leaves. Gooseberry bushes are often defoliated by severe attacks of the Gooseberry Sawfly. The caterpillars begin to feed in the middle of the bushes, thus escaping detection. The caterpillars are green with a black head and black spots.

Codling Moth
The caterpillars are not easily seen as they live inside the apples, but as the fruit develops a conspicuous red ring often encircles the pest's point of entry and brown frass may also be seen extruding. On cutting an infected fruit open the small pinkish caterpillar with a brown head and black spots may be seen amongst the internal damage.

Raspberry Beetle
The beetle lay their eggs in the flowers of raspberries and other cane fruit. These hatch into greyish grubs which tunnel into the ripening fruit. Very objectional in fresh fruit.

Red Spider Mite
These mites are microscopic but can cause serious damage to the foliage of apples and plums. The leaves become bronzed and fall prematurely. The mites live within a whiteish web on the underside of the leaves feeding on the sap. The mites overwinter as winter eggs laid in crevices on the bark. Fortunately, natural predators usually give adequate control in gardens.

Apple Canker
The canker first appears as sunken bark close to buds or wounds but as it develops it becomes elliptical extending, lengthwise along the stem. Distortion and swelling occurs and the bark is killed taking an 'oyster shell' appearance. Encircled shoots are killed. Established cankers produce spores which infect new parts of the tree.

Brown Rot
Brown rot occurs as brown decaying patches (which later bear white concentric rings of spores) on ripening fruits of apple, pear and plum. Infected fruit usually drop off but sometimes they remain attached to the tree and become mummified. In this case remove them as soon as possible.

American Goosberry Mildew
The young leaves and shoots are covered with a thin felt like layer of fungus. Often fruits are attacked. The diseased regions later turn brown.

Apple Mildew
Growths which are infected with mildew bear very small curled leaves which are covered with grey-white felty powder. Badly infected shoots are often leafless and can be easily recognised and removed in winter, when they appear shrivelled and whiteish-brown all over.

Peach Leaf Curl
Just after bud-burst, whiteish green swellings appear on the young leaves. On the upper surface they appear downy white. The swellings later turn reddish colour and the infected portion of the leaf becomes very thickened and distorted.

Scab (Black Spot)
Scab infection attacks both leaves and fruit of apple and pear. Small dark spots appear, which then increase in size. These spots appear which then increase in size. These spots soon produce more infectious spores which are released to start new infection. Often one large spot is encircled by numerous small spots. The disease is worse in worse wet humid seasons when the fruit can be severely cracked, marked and distorted. In bad cases come defoliation can take place.

Pollination made simple

Most suburban situations provide good pollen due to the close proximity of other gardens. It is not always necessary to have pollinators if the bees and other pollinating insects are generous with their visits. If you have no other Apple tree close by then select two varieties in the same group or the adjoining group i.e. Group 2 and 4 will pollinate group 3 as will any others in group 3. Some varieties are self fertile.

Group 1 - Apples
Crimson Gravenstein

Group 2 - Apples
Ambassy
Beauty of Bath
Christmas Pearmain
Devonshire Quarrenden
Early Windsor
Egremont Russet
George Cave
George Neal
Irish Peach
Lord Lambourne
Rev. W. Wilks
St Edmund's Pippin

Key	
T	Triploid (requires 2 pollinating partners)

Group 3 - Apples
Arthur Turner
Blenheim Orange **T**
Bountiful
Bramley's Seedling **T**
Brownlees Russet
Charles Ross
Cox's Orange Pippin
Discovery
Falstaff
Fiesta / Red Pippin
Greensleeves
Grenadier
Isle of Wight Pippin
James Grieve
Katy
Kidd's Orange Red
Lane's Prince Albert
Meridian
Orleans Reinette
Peasgood's Nonsuch
Pinova
Pitmaston Pine Apple
Queen Cox Self Fertile
Rosemary Russet
Saturn
Spartan
Sunset
Tentation
Tydeman's Early
Winter Gem
Worcester Pearmain

Group 4 - Apples
American Mother
Annie Elizabeth
Ashmead's Kernel
Braeburn
Chivers Delight
Claygate Pearmain
Cornish Aromatic
Cornish Gillyflower
D'Arcy Spice
Ellison's Orange
Gala/Royal Gala
Golden Delicious
Golden Noble
Howgate Wonder
Lord Derby
Norfolk Royal
Pixie
Royal Gala/Gala
Tydeman's Late Orange
Winston

Group 5 - Apples
Costard
Newton Wonder

Group 6 - Apples
Court Pendu Plat

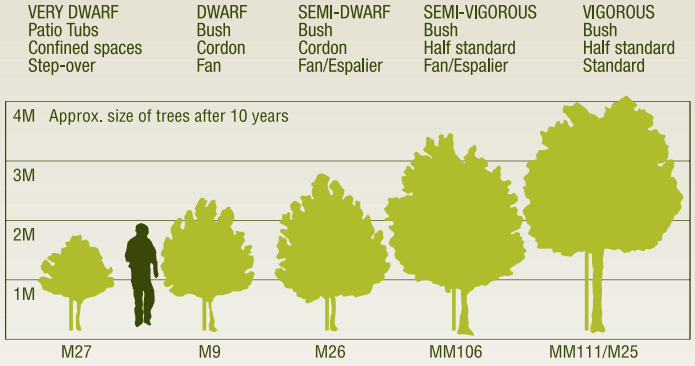
Group 7 - Apples
Crawley Beauty

Cherries
Pollination Group B
Maynard
Morello
Stella
Pollination Group C
Sunburst

Plums Gages and Damsons
Pollination Group B
Merryweather Damson
Shropshire Damson
Oullins Golden Gage
Mirabelle de Nancy
Blue Tit
Czar
Marjorie's Seedling
Opal
Victoria
Pollination Group C
Cambridge Green Gage

Pears
Pollination Group B
Beth
Beurre Hardy
Conference
Polination Group C
Concorde
Doyenne du Comice
Dwarf Garden Pearl
Williams' Bon Chretien

A guide to rootstock selection



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