



Fruit Bushes March 2020

BERRIES

Raspberries **£7.00 for 5 canes**

- **'Polka'** – **bare root canes to plant now.**
- Best in a sheltered, sunny position but will tolerate part shade.
- Apply a layer of well-rotted compost or bonemeal to the soil. Repeat every year in February around the canes making sure not to damage the shallow roots.
- Separate canes and plant 30 – 45cm apart.
- Harvest: July – October.
- Cut back all the canes to ground level in February. For an earlier crop in early summer, prune only the top 10 cm from some of the canes. These canes will give a much earlier crop and at the same time allow the traditionally pruned canes to push through and crop in autumn.
- These canes will mostly support themselves with only the odd bit of help from some sticks in strategic positions.
- Container growing - Single raspberry plants can be grown in 38cm (15in) diameter containers, training the canes up bamboo poles. Keep the compost moist and feed with a liquid general-purpose fertiliser on a monthly basis during the growing season.

Blueberries 3 litre pots - £12.00

- **'Duke'**

- **'Blue Crop'**

- Blueberries require light, free-draining acidic soils, with plenty of rich, organic matter if they're to thrive.

- If you don't have suitable soil, simply grow blueberries in a pot containing ericaceous compost, giving the plants a high potash feed (such as tomato feed) occasionally during the growing season.

- Plant two different varieties of blueberries to ensure cross-pollination. A single blueberry plant will produce fruit, but the yields will be higher and the fruits bigger if more than one plant is grown. They require a position in full sun or light shade.

- Water in well and keep moist using rainwater rather than tap water if possible. Tap water contains lime which renders the soil less acidic over time.

- Blueberries produce fruit on branches that were produced the previous year. Grows to about 1.5m high.

- Fruits are ready to pick when they have turned a deep blue. The fruit should easily pull away from the cluster when ripe.

- Mulch each spring. Chipped up pine tree or pine needles are ideal mulches to place around plants because they're fairly acidic.

Gooseberries 3 litre pots - £8.00

- **'Hinnonmaki Red'**

- **'Captivator'**

- Self-fertile.

- Berries start off pale green and mature to a deep burgundy red colour from mid to late July.

- When pinkish they are excellent for cooking and when fully ripe they can be eaten from the bush.

- Height & Spread: 1.6m (5ft).

- Juvenile thorns on the bush at the beginning but disappear with maturity.

Tayberries – cross between raspberry and blackberry

3 litre pots - £5.00

- Requires plenty of space! 2.5 – 4m.
- Needs full sun to produce a good crop.
- Fruit forms on one-year old canes so those that grew last year will fruit this year.
- Train any new canes upwards or tie them to one side to keep them separate.
- In autumn, cut out all the old canes that have borne fruit and retrain the new ones into place in preparation for the following year.
- Pick berries on a dry day when they are ripe, plump and juicy in July to mid-August.

Strawberries – available end of April.

1 litre pots - £2.00

- **'Elsanta'**
- Orange-red fruit with delicious taste.
- Height & Spread: 30cm
- Harvest: June to July.
- Best in a sunny site and well-drained soil.
- Spread straw around the plants to protect the fruit.

CURRANTS

Redcurrants – available mid-April.

3 litre pots - £8.00

- **‘Rovada’**

- Large, luscious fruit produced in profusion on huge ‘strings’.

- Height & Spread: 1 – 1.5m.

- Approx. 2.7kg of fruit per plant.

- Harvest: July – August.

- Excellent eaten fresh or from the freezer.

- Full sun or partial shade and well-drained soil.

Blackcurrants – available mid-April.

3 litre pots - £8.00

- **‘Ben Sarek’**

- Ideal for small gardens or patios, with a maximum height of 90cm.

- Heavy crop of large berries.

- Good resistance to mildew.

- Tolerant of frost at planting time.

- Harvest: Mid July to August.

- Stems grow from soil level.

- Full sun or partial shade and well-drained soil.

RHUBARB

• 'Victoria' – crowns to plant now. £3.50
• 'Timperley Early' – crowns to plant now. £3.50
• Plant so the tip of the crown is just visible above the soil.
• Spread: 75 – 90cm.
• Green stalks that are reddish towards the base.
• A cool season, hardy perennial plant.
• Harvest: April – May.
• Will grow in any soil except poorly drained clay.
• Prefers sun but will tolerate partial shade.
• Cut out any flower stems.
• Rhubarb can also be planted in very large pots at least 50cm deep and wide.
• Do not harvest in first year!

GLOBE ARTICHOKE

2 litre pots - £6.00

• 'Tavor' - Thornless, green-headed variety.
• 'Arad' – Thornless, purple tinted variety.
• Hardy Perennial.
• Produces uniform, round shaped artichokes, with sweet flavour and tender texture.
• Harvest when 12cm in diameter.
• Height: 170cm.
• Sunny, sheltered site in fertile well-drained soil.
• Also used as an architectural plant at the back of the border.