

Fruit Bushes

April 2024

BERRIES

Blueberries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Blue Crop'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Duke'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Sunshine Blue'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Pink Lemonade'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light, free-draining acidic soils, with plenty of rich, organic matter if they're to thrive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't have suitable soil, grow blueberries in a pot containing ericaceous compost, giving the plants a high potash feed (such as tomato feed) occasionally during the growing season
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blueberries produce fruit on branches that were produced the previous year. Grows to about 1.5m high
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fruits are ready to pick when they have turned a deep blue. The fruit should easily pull away from the cluster when ripe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mulch each spring. Chipped up pine tree or pine needles are ideal mulches to place around plants because they're fairly acidic

Cranberry

- **'Pilgrim'**
- Low growing, evergreen shrub with a lax, spreading habit
- Requires acidic soil. Ideal for growing in pots with ericaceous compost
- Water using rain water if possible
- Pink flowers in summer are followed by dark red berries with a distinctive tart flavour
- Dark green foliage turns a brilliant bronze in winter
- Height: 30cm Spread: 75cm
- Harvest: Late September to October
- Grow in full sun to partial shade and boggy conditions

Gooseberry

- **'Invicta'**
- Tasty pale-green berries
- Vigorous, spreading and thorny
- Resistant to mildew
- Dual-purpose
- Best in a sunny, sheltered location but will tolerate shady site in moist, fertile soil
- Height & Spread: 1.6m (5ft)
- Harvest: July
- Prune back side shoots to five leaves in the summer to encourage fruiting spurs to develop and cut back leading shoots by a third in winter
- Can be trained as a fan shape - Train single-stemmed cordons against walls or onto canes by tying the leading shoot tip onto the support. Prune side shoots back to five leaves in summer and shorten the main tip by a quarter and shorten side shoots to three buds in winter to encourage new fruit spurs next year

Strawberries – available in May

- **‘Cambridge Favourite’** – Mid season. Harvest: June to July
- **‘Symphony’** – Late season. Harvest: July to August
- **‘Flamenco’** – Ever bearing. Harvest: July to October
- Orange-red fruit with delicious taste
- Height and Spread: 10 – 50cm
- Grow 30 – 45cm apart
- Can be grown in containers
- Best in a sunny site and well-drained soil
- Spread straw around the plants to protect the fruit

RHUBARB

- **‘Victoria’**
- **‘Timperley Early’**
- 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!**

CURRENTS

Redcurrants

- **'Rosetta'**
- **'Jonkheer Van Tets'**
- 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

- **'Ben Sarek'**
- **'Ben Alder'**
- **'Big Ben'**
- 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.

FIGS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 'Brown Turkey'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Large deciduous shrub with bold, deeply lobed leaves
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Insignificant flowers followed by edible fruit to 10cm in length in the spring, at first green, but purplish when ripe develop in spring and ripen to purple-brown throughout the summer for harvesting in late summer or autumn when soft
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Usually one crop of fruit per year, but sometimes two in a hot summer or under protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A second crop often develops in late summer and if protected, these fruits will ripen during the following summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Large crops of sweet, juicy figs with a deep red flesh under their brown skins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Best grown fan-trained against a warm wall or fence, using a root restriction method such as a box of paving slabs with the bottom filled with a warm layer of rubble or broken corks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Also suitable for cultivation in a container
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● In March remove a proportion (1/4 to 1/3) of older branches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Height: 3m
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spread: 4m
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Harvest – August to September

GLOBE ARTICHOKE

• 'Tavor' - Thornless, green-headed variety
• 'Arad' – Thornless, purple tinted variety
• 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

ASPARAGUS

• 'Mondeo' – All male variety
• 'Pacific Purple' – More tender and sweeter than green varieties
• Dig long trenches, 20cm deep by 30cm wide, and fill the bottom of the trench with 7cm of well-rotted manure or garden compost. Mound up soil on top of the manure to form a ridge along the length of the trench and place the asparagus crowns on top of ridge with their roots draped over the edge of the ridge. Cover the crowns with 7cm of soil and firm them into their positions
• Height: 150cm Spread: 45cm
• Harvest: April to June. It is recommended to stop cutting from the end of May to allow the shoots to develop into foliage
• In autumn cut back the yellowing foliage and mulch the crowns with well-rotted manure to protect them from frost. Feed with a general fertiliser each March
• Do not harvest in first year