

How to... grow soft fruits

Part of the Pacific Nurseries
'How to...' series



Growing your own fruit is easier than you'd expect. Read our guide to some of the more popular fruits and ask for help if required.

Strawberries

For best strawberry results, invest in newly bought plants every 3 years and vary the position of planting. Strawberries grow best in a warm, sunny spot and need well-drained soil. Water regularly while the fruits are developing, and place straw or strawberry mats beneath them for protection. Remove stems with baby plants on them - as they appear.

Raspberries

There are summer and autumn fruiting raspberries. Summer crops give a high yield in a short space of time and autumn plants will perform more slowly and steadily. Raspberries prefer a sheltered, sunny spot and rich but well-drained soil. Plant your canes in autumn or early winter and cut down to 15cm (6in), so that in the first year all the energy goes into establishing a good root system for the following year. In spring apply a mulch of manure and support the canes as they grow. For summer fruiting varieties, cut fruited canes back to ground level in late winter. For autumn fruiting varieties, cut the canes back to ground level.

Currants

Black, red, and white currants all fruit in mid-summer. They need protection from wind and spring frosts. Plant new bushes in late autumn into rich, moisture retentive soil, at about 1.2m to 1.5m (4ft to 5ft) apart. After planting prune all the branches to the lowest bud to encourage strong growth. In spring apply a good fertiliser and mulch with organic matter. They need regular pruning to keep fruit yields high.

Fruit trees

All fruit trees should be given an annual mulch of well-rotted, bulky, organic manure and fertiliser in spring. They will also all need pruning, and apples and plums need fruit thinning. Prune plums and cherry trees in summer only.

The team at Pacific Nurseries is highly experienced. As plant growers and the supplier of thousands of plants to over 100 garden centres in the region, we are well placed to advise you on any of your gardening questions. Please ask us for any help you need.



We're always on
hand to help.

Pacific Nurseries,
Chester Road, Streetly
0121 353 4017
www.pacificnurseries.co.uk


Pacific
NURSERIES