



833 South Stark Highway • Weare, NH 03281 • 603.529.7539 • www.woodburysgardencenter.com

Fruits and Berries

Fruits and berries thrive in a variety of conditions. Choose a variety that is best suited to your area. They can be grown by adding peat moss, topsoil and compost. Most prefer a slow release fertilizer.

BLUEBERRIES

Blueberries are trouble free and last a lifetime with basic care growing to produce tasty fruit each season. We provides blueberries with a variety of sizes and shapes ranging from groundcovers to hedges. At Woodbury's Garden Center, we provide varieties that will cross pollinate. The average yield on a mature plant is 10 lbs. Most prefer sun, but many will grow well in 50% shade. On average, plant blueberries with lots of peat moss (about 5 g.). Blueberries are acid loving, so we recommend a slow release fertilizer. Ask our professionals for watering and fertilizing advice.

RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES AND STRAWBERRIES

The bramble family is some of the easiest to grow. Such a treat right off the bush! Raspberries grow somewhat upright but remember to take care not to plant near wet areas. The soil should be well drained and it is also beneficial to add topsoil and compost. The fertilizer requirements are neutral. We recommend a slow release 10-10-10. Overfeeding will produce lush foliage but little fruit.

With raspberries, pruning is key. Remove old canes. In doing so, new productive growth is stimulated. Prune after fruiting.

Blackberries are similar to raspberries. These beauties prefer rich, well drained soil in sunny locations. The key to successful production is proper pruning. Each spring canes should be cut to 6". Also, "top" them during the season.

Strawberries – who doesn't love the experience of growing strawberries? It is a rewarding experience lasting for generations. By growing different varieties, a family can pick ripe fruit from spring till frost. Strawberries require direct, full sunlight for optimum conditions. When planting early in the spring do not plant in frost pockets or where cold air is trapped. By rotating every 3 or 4 years, you can minimize disease and insect problems.

Strawberries require well drained soil. Strawberries do not like heavy or clay soil. We suggest a loamy soil, high in organic matter. When selecting cultivars, remember there are three categories – June-bearers, ever-bearers and day-neutrals. Ever-bearers and day-neutrals are usually smaller fruit. The advantage of growing all three is the extended harvest.

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With June-bearers remove all flower duster during the planting year before fruit is formed. By leaving the blossoms the first year, the plant becomes stressed, limiting leaf and crown growth. This impacts the harvest the following year. At harvest time pick fruit every other day. Remember, fruit harvested in the morning usually lasts longer. Overripe fruit can promote insect and disease.

GRAPES

Grapes, one of the oldest fruits, can be grown everywhere on Earth. It is not a surprise that grapes are becoming popular again. They are simple to grow and can be trained in unique situations. Grapes can live for a hundred years and once established the care is annual pruning, picking and the Japanese beetle battle (and they don't last long so be patient).

The soil needs to be fertile and well drained. Sun should shine all day. The amending soil should consist of topsoil and compost. Remember, the ease of harvest should be considered when choosing a trellis. Fertilize with 10-10-10 slow release feed scattered around the plant. Pruning is more imperative with grapes than any other fruit. In springtime there will be leafy growth unless pruned. Select a leader - a cane that supports many shoots. The small plants have only a few shoots so prune until there are no more than 2 buds on a shoot. Increase the number of buds left on the leader. At 75 buds it can be considered mature. Excess buds should be removed before the plant emerges from dormancy. There may be 7 buds the first year, 17 the next. Should the grapes be too small, prune more.