

GROWING SMALL FRUITS – Daryl Hoitt, Red Fox Farm

KIWI: Beware garden descriptions in catalogs!
Takes several years to produce fruit
Requires proper pruning & frequent pruning
(once/day, everyday, every week)
Research pruning techniques on-line
Need male and female plants

STRAWBERRIES: Preparation for first time growers:
Start with one row to allow for placement of runners during
the growing season
Prepare beds late August/early fall
(Allow at least one month before the first frost)
Loves acidic soils
Compost 3 inches deep ~ Strawberries need lots of compost
Side dress plants with composted chicken manure
Can dress closer with composted horse manure
Mulch strawberry plants ~ Retains moisture, is a weed barrier
and prevents splash back from heavy rains/watering which
protects the underside of the strawberry plant
Pine needles 3 inches deep because pine needles will settle
Note: Slugs don't like pine needles and/or mulch with hay
Recommended Varieties:
June Bearing: All Star (white flesh), Annapolis (larger red flesh)
Everbearing: Seascape, Tribute
Everbearing varieties can be brought indoors in winter.
Resource: St. Lawrence Nurseries

Strawberries; Preparation for established beds:
Prepare beds same as new bed (ie 4 weeks before first frost)
Mow high
Place runners where you want them to grow
Plant two feet between rows
Mulch (ie shredded newspaper, then hay or broken sunflower
stems, then pine needles or hay, again 3 inches thick)

Strawberries: Preparation for plants in window boxes or hanging pots:

Make a trench and bury plants. Mulch.

Dig up in early Spring ~ relocate to desired prepped location

Mow high & lightly mulch

Notes: Removes any diseased leaves or signs of disease from plant

Grow enough berries for critters and you

Raspberries:

Compost with composted horse and/or chicken manure

Mulch first year. After first year, raspberries self-mulch.

If raspberries are unsuccessful in one spot (as with any herb or

Plant), keep moving it around until plant is "Happy!"

Everbearing varieties can mow down in spring ~ or ~

After fall harvest deadwood to 3 feet

Non-bearing varieties grow on last years wood

Do not deadwood, but can shape

Do not cut off side shoots

First root is source for berry

After bearing can take off one foot so new wood will grow
for next harvest

Do not deadwood with by-pass shears

Recommended Tools: Anvil pruning shears & Cape Cod weeding tool

Blueberries:

As with all fruits, let air & sunshine through so no fungus develops

Loves acidic soil

Transplant mid-August through mid-September

(four weeks before first frost)

Compost & Mulch same as other berries

Wild blueberry shrubs will spread.

Experiment in Rooting:

Take branch, cut all around, but not entirely through

Wrap in sphagnum moss

Wrap in plastic wrap (ie Saran or common kitchen plastic wrap)

Branch should eventually sent out roots

Resource: FEDCO for fruit fertilizers