

Planting Instructions

Early spring plants are dormant when they are shipped. They spent the winter in temperature-controlled freezers and will be ready to grow once they are planted. Once you receive your plants, plant them as soon as possible.

Site selection The site for fruit trees and shrubs should get at least half a day of sun for best growth in northern areas, and afternoon shade is recommended for hotter zones (except cherries which can tolerate full sun anywhere). A sheltered area is ideal. Don't plant bushes in wet areas with water standing for more than a few weeks in spring. Most trees and shrubs like well-drained soil, though honeyberries are fairly tolerant both of wet areas and drought conditions. Cherries don't like "wet feet" at all.

Planting Plants shipped later may be actively growing and require a hardening off period of several days prior to planting. Set plants outside in sheltered shade, increasing the sun time a few hours each day.

If roots are entwined in the pot, open them up prior to planting. Fibrous root masses such as the honeyberry may be "sliced" open in an X shape, other roots such as cherries may simply be manually spread out. To plant, cover the honeyberry and saskatoon root ball by 2" inches of your own soil, for the other bushes a little less. Saskatoons may also be pruned at the tip to promote multiple shoot production.

Watering It is critical to water-in after planting – **inadequate watering at planting time is the main reason for poor establishment.** Soaking the root ball in water prior to planting does not compensate for lack of water after planting. It is important to increase the moisture in the soil around the root ball so roots are encouraged to grow out into the surrounding area. After planting, make a saucer-shaped well 10 inches around the plant to help hold the water. Apply about a gallon of water to the plant and surrounding area. Apply gradually so the water has a chance to soak in before you apply more. Water as required but expect to give a gallon of water per plant every 4 to 5 days. Repeat this 3 or 4 times. After this initial watering-in, water as required. If there

is good rainfall, you may not need to apply supplemental water. If soil conditions are dry, you may need to irrigate regularly.

Fertilization Bushes planted in healthy soil do not necessarily need fertilization the first year. Do not fertilize or overly water in the fall when the plants are going dormant. A light application of well-aged manure is usually adequate in the spring. Dry fertilizer granules have been known to burn the bark. If dry fertilizer is used, ¼ - ½ teaspoon per plant is adequate, spread at least 5" away from trunk, and water regularly. 10-10-10 or 20-10-10 fertilizer may be used. Note that for acidic soils of pH less than 4.5, it may be beneficial to raise the pH by mixing wood ash into the soil prior to planting.

Pruning may be done in late winter or early spring on older bushes. Thin out older branches when the bush gets too dense. Never remove more than 25% of a bush in any year.

Pollination may occur within same plant (self-pollination), require a matching of male/female bushes, or with another variety of the same species (companion). Note that self-pollinators usually produce better with companions.

Harvesting your fruit as late as possible will ensure maximum flavor. Honeyberries need three weeks more ripening time after turning dark blue!

Spacing The approximate width of each plant is given below, and given as a general guideline for plant spacing. Homeowners may want to allow more space between plants for easier harvesting, or plant slightly closer together when space is limited. Airflow between plants, especially cherries, will assist in combating mold. Leaving 4-6 feet of walkway in between rows of mature plants is usually adequate, but commercial growers will need to choose between-row spacing that accommodates equipment used for cultivation, mowing, and harvesting.

Suckering needs to be monitored on some bushes and can usually be controlled by mowing.

Plant	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Spread (ft)	Sucker	Pollination	Cold Hardy Zone
Honeyberries	4-6	4-6	no	companion	1
Sour Cherries	6-10	6-7	slight	self	2a
Arctic Raspberry	6-18 inches	12-18 inches	yes	companion	2
Aronia	6-8	6	yes	self	2b
Cranberry	10	6-8	some	self	3
Currants	6	6	some	self	2b
Elderberry	8-10	4-5	rhizomes*	self	3
Goji	6-8	5-6	some	self	3
Kiwi	trellissed	10-12	no	male/female	3
Saskatoons	6-12	6-8	some	self	2b
Sea Berry (Sea Buckthorn)	15	12	yes	male/female	2a

*Rhizome: subterranean root

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