

## Planting Chart

Plant	Sun	*Or Part Shad e	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Spread (ft) Spacing	Sucker	Pollination	Cold Hardy Zone
Honeyberries	Y*	Y	5-10	5-10	no	companion	1
Sour Cherries	Y	N	7-12	7-10	yes	self	2a
Arctic Raspberry	Y*	Y	6-18 inches	12-18 inches	yes	companion	2
Aronia	Y	Y	6-8	6-8	no	self	2b
Blackberry	Y	Y	7-8	2'	yes	self	3
Cranberry	Y	Y	10	6-8	some	self	3
Currants/ Gooseberries	Y*	Y	4-6	4-6	no	self	2b
Elderberry	Y	Y	8-10	4-5	rhizomes**	self	3
Goji	Y	Y	4-8	5-6	yes	self	3
Kiwi	Y	Y	Trellised Vine	10-12	no	male/female	3
Raspberry/Blackberry	Y	N	7-8	2'	yes	self	3
Saskatoons	Y	Y	6-12	6-8	some	self	2b
Sea Berry (Sea Buckthorn)	Y	N	10-15	10-12	yes	male/female	2a

\* Full sun is recommended in zones 2-4 and partial shade may be advisable in hotter zones

\*\*Rhizome: subterranean branch that spreads like suckers

## Planting Instructions

Early spring plants are normally dormant when they are shipped. They will be ready to grow once they are planted. Once you receive your plants, plant them as soon as possible, even if your area is experiencing freezing temps. They're used to it!

If your order contains plants that are potted and already leafed out, set them outside in sheltered shade for a couple days, moving into sunlight for a few hours increasing each day in order

to "harden them off" – acclimate the leaves to the sunlight.

**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 appreciate 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 somewhat tolerant both of wet

areas and drought conditions. Cherries don't like "wet feet" at all.

**Planting** 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 long cherry roots may simply be manually spread out. To plant, dig a hole twice the size of the root ball, position plant so top of root ball is slightly below ground level and fill in hole with soil. It is best to plant into the natural soil conditions and top dress with fertilizer if necessary.

**Watering** It is critical to water-in after planting in both spring and fall – **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.

**Spring/summer watering:** 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 so they get an inch a week into summer, easing off during fall.

**Fall watering:** Following planting, northern gardeners will not need to water in late fall as winter approaches, southern gardeners will need to water gently according to their heat/moisture conditions.

**Fertilization** Bushes planted in healthy soil do not necessarily need fertilization the first year. Do not fertilize in the late summer or fall as the plants are needing to go 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. Prune at base of plant for most bushes. Cherries need pruning of excess branches within the bush along main trunks. Never remove more than 25% of a bush in any year.

**Pollination** occurs in different ways among different species: self-pollination within same plant (aronia, cherries, currants, cranberry, elderberry, saskatoons, goji), male/female bushes (seaberry, kiwi), or with a companion of another variety of the same species (honeyberry). Note that self-pollinators may produce better with companions.

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

**Spacing** The approximate width of each plant is given in the chart 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, but please be considerate and don't plant next to neighbor's property.