



Plant care instructions
FRUIT & VEG

Richard Jackson *Garden*

Introduction



Growing your own fruit and veg at home is the best way to get the freshest, juiciest and tastiest crops. You can pick them at the peak of perfection, when the flavour is fully developed and at its best, and eat it straight away. Imagine popping out into your garden and picking the freshest, tastiest fruit you've ever eaten!

Soft fruit and perennial vegetables are a brilliant long-term investment for your tastebuds. Strawberries will reliably fruit for four years, after which plants should be replaced - luckily, strawberries produce new plants along their runners! Until you need new plants, the runners are best removed. Raspberries will crop reliably for 10-12 years, and asparagus can produce great crops for up to 20 years.

In the first summer, you could crop up to 100g (3½oz) per strawberry plant, after that, you could get up to 500g (17½oz) or more per plant, or up to 1kg (35oz) with 'Malling Champion'.

Raspberry 'Glen Carron' won't crop this year, but should produce at least 500g (17½oz) of tasty raspberries per plant from next summer. 'Enrosadira' and 'Autumn Treasure' should produce up to 500g of fruit per plant this summer and even more from next year onwards.

Each asparagus plant should produce around 250g (8¾oz) of spears in year two and up to 500g per plant from then onwards for around 20 years.

You've made a great choice buying some of our fruit. We've chosen some of the best varieties available, and those that are loved by professional growers and PYO farms.

Your plants on arrival

When your plants arrive, open the packaging fully, carefully lift out the plants, remove any packaging, and water them if the compost or roots seem dry.

Your plants will either arrive as plug plants (small plants grown in their own 'plug' of compost), larger plants in 9cm (3½in) pots, or bare-root plants.

Plug plants

Plug plants should be potted up individually into at least 9-10cm (3½-4in) pots with good potting compost first, depending on the size of the plug. Larger plugs will need pots up to 1-2 litre (13-17cm/5-6in). Grow on the plants in a sheltered position outdoors and then plant out when the roots start to fill the pots. Allow the compost to slightly dry out before thoroughly watering them again.

Seed potatoes

Keep the seed potato tubers somewhere cool and dark until you're ready to plant them. But try to plant as soon as possible after delivery.

Potted plants

Those in pots can be planted into their growing/flowering positions straight away. If you can't plant straight away, put the plants somewhere outside sheltered from frost, very cold temperatures and strong/cold winds until you can plant them.

Bare-root plants

These can be planted into their growing/flowering positions straight away. If this isn't possible, put the plants somewhere cool outside with the roots covered with moist compost.

Planting out

Water potted plants thoroughly immediately before planting. Watering with [Flower Power](#) at half the recommended dilution will help get plants off to the perfect start. Soak the strawberry plant roots in a bucket of water for 15-20 minutes.

Growing in beds and borders

In beds and borders, fruit grows best in well-drained, but moisture-retentive soil. Dig the planting hole at least twice the size of the pot or roots, sprinkle some compost in the bottom and, ideally, add some [Root Booster](#) or [Easy Feed fertiliser](#), before planting. Pop the plant in the planting hole, adding a bit more compost if needed so that the top of the rootball, or with strawberries the base of the crown, is at the same level as the soil surface, or slightly deeper for raspberries, and add more compost around the sides of the plant. Gently firm in with

your fingers or the end of a trowel or hand fork and water in thoroughly with 4.5-9 litres (1-2 gallons) of water per plant, ideally using a dilute plant food like [Flower Power](#).

Growing in pots

If growing in pots, use John Innes No 3 or multi-purpose compost with added John Innes. To help plants establish extra quickly, water in with a dilute plant food, such as [Flower Power](#).

Asparagus See Further growing information.

Potatoes See Further growing information.

Growing on

Water thoroughly whenever necessary to prevent the compost or soil drying out, especially during the first three months after planting while the plants are establishing.

It is important to give each plant enough water that gets to the bottom of the roots. Giving plants in the ground 9 litres (2 gallons) of water per week is far better than watering little and more frequently. Plants in pots and other containers will probably need watering more frequently. Water whenever the compost starts to dry out (the compost will turn light brown in colour) and give enough water that it just starts to trickle out of the drainage holes. If the soil or compost dry out this will affect flowering and fruiting.

Feed plants regularly with a high potash, liquid plant food, such as **Flower Power**, through spring and summer, from two to four weeks after planting out. This really helps produce stronger, healthier plants with more flowers, and so more fruit.

Mulch the soil around the plants, with a 5-7.5cm (2-3in) deep layer of organic matter, in autumn or spring, making sure the soil is moist before putting down the mulch. Keep the area around the plants weed-free.

Any additional specific growing instructions can be found in their descriptions throughout the booklet.



Strawberries

Delicious Strawberries - Early Fruiting



Strawberry 'Vibrant' produces beautifully shaped, conical, uniform red berries. It is an early cropping variety, producing fruit in early to mid-June. It is heavy cropping, producing a large number of trusses with four or five fruit on each truss.

J00168

Delicious Strawberries - Late Summer Fruiting



Strawberry 'Malwina' is one of the best late season varieties producing large, dark red, glossy berries in July and even into August/early September. They have a lovely aroma, exceptionally high Brix reading (sugar content) and a really excellent flavour.

J00170

UK Plant Passport
A Fragaria × ananassa
B 130137
C 2021120209
D GB

UK Plant Passport
A Fragaria × ananassa
B 130137
C 2021120208
D GB

Champion Strawberry For Pots



Strawberry 'Malling Champion' is an everbearing variety, which means it produces fruit for the entire growing season, beginning in early summer with crops throughout summer and into autumn. It reaches its peak cropping in July.

J00171

Further growing information

Strawberries fruit best in a warm, sunny position. Plant 45cm (18in) apart.

As the strawberries ripen, they will need straw or some other dry material tucked under them to prevent the fruit coming into contact with the ground and rotting. Plants in containers won't need this.

After harvesting, the straw should be removed and composted. Then cut back the old leaves to expose some of the crown of the plant to sunlight; this will encourage more fruit the following year.

UK Plant Passport
A Fragaria x ananassa
B 130137
C 2021120206
D GB

Raspberries

Early Season Raspberry 'Glen Carron'



Raspberry 'Glen Carron' is all about the flavour, as it's a variety that always performs well in blind taste tests. It is an early to mid-season variety, cropping for at least four weeks from June and into July. The bright red, traditionally shaped conical berries are very sweet with a low level of acidity. The fruit is easy to pick and lasts well after picking. The fruit is produced on the previous year's growth.

J00172

Late Season Raspberry 'Enrosadira'



Raspberry 'Enrosadira' produces large, attractive, bright red berries with an outstanding, aromatic flavour. They have a good firmness and last well once picked. It is a very versatile variety and can be grown to produce a large later summer/early autumn crop. Fruit is easy to pick and keeps well after picking. The fruit is produced on the current year's growth.

J00173

UK Plant Passport
A Rubus idaeus
B 130137
C 2021120203
D GB

UK Plant Passport
A Rubus idaeus
B 130137
C 2021120202
D GB

Raspberry 'Autumn Treasure'



Raspberry 'Autumn Treasure' is an outstanding autumn-fruiting variety, cropping from August to October. It produces large, uniformly sized, delicious, sweet fruit with a mouthwatering flavour.

J00216

Further growing information

Raspberries need a sheltered spot in full sun or partial shade. They prefer a slightly acidic, well-drained but moisture-retentive soil.

'Glen Carron' should be trained on two parallel wires, equally stretched between posts 1.8m (6ft) apart; 'Enrosadira' and 'Autumn Treasure' need little or no support. Plant with the top of the rootball about 5cm (2in) below the soil surface. Space the plants around 45-60cm (18-24in) apart.

Keep the plants weed free, but avoid hoeing, as this may damage the shallow roots.

Mulch around the plants each year with well-rotted manure or compost, making sure not to bury the stems.

Prune 'Glen Carron' by cutting out the fruited canes only after the fruit has been picked, and train in the new canes to fruit the following year.

Prune 'Enrosadira' and 'Autumn Treasure' by cutting back the canes to ground level in January or February.



Blueberry 'Bluecrop'



Blueberry 'Bluecrop' is one of the most reliable cropping varieties. It produces high yields of delicious, large fruit, ready to pick in mid-summer. Plants also produce great autumn foliage colours. Fruit is easy to pick.

J00217

Further growing information

Blueberries grow well in sunny positions or partial shade. They need a lime-free, acidic soil and, if your tap water is hard/chalky/alkaline, should be watered with rainwater or the soil treated annually with sulphur chips. If your soil is chalky/alkaline, they are perfect for growing in containers

using an ericaceous compost, such as my [Ericaceous Compost](#), John Innes Ericaceous Compost or a mixture of both.

After three years and annually thereafter, in winter, cut back and remove about 20-25% of the oldest stems each year.



Early Asparagus

Asparagus 'Gijnlim' is a vigorous F1 hybrid variety that is high yielding, producing large crops for several weeks. The dark green spears with deep purple tips are ready to start picking early in the "asparagus season" and for several weeks afterwards.

J00174

Further growing information

As this is a long-term crop, prepare the soil well before planting and adding lots of humus - such as well-rotted manure or compost.

Dig a trench 30cm (12in) wide and 20cm (8in) deep. Work in some well-rotted manure into the soil at the bottom of the trench, then add some of the excavated soil to make a 7.5-10cm (3-4in) high ridge down the centre of the trench. Place the crowns on top, carefully spreading out the roots, spacing them 30-45cm (12-18in) apart. Carefully cover the crowns with 5-7.5cm (2-3in) of soil, leaving the bud tips just visible. Gradually fill

in the rest of the trench as the plants grow through the soil. Water in and mulch with 5cm (2in) of well-rotted manure.

Asparagus beds must be kept weed free, which is best done by hand as the shallow roots are easily damaged by hoeing. Apply 100g per sq m (3oz per sq yd) of a general granular fertiliser in early spring and repeat once harvesting has finished.

Allow the foliage to yellow in autumn before cutting down the stems to 2.5cm (1in) above the soil surface.

Harvesting

(Resist the temptation to pick any spears in the first year, as it's very important to allow the crowns to establish. In the second year, pick from mid-April for six weeks, and in subsequent years for eight weeks. To harvest, cut individual spears with a sharp knife 2.5cm (1in) below the soil when they are 15-20cm (6-8in) long.



UK Plant Passport
A Asparagus officinalis
B 130137
C 2021120201
D GB

Potato 'Charlotte'



Potato 'Charlotte' is one of the most popular early cropping potatoes, producing excellent crops of firm yellow, waxy-fleshed, long-oval tubers with a delicious flavour. It can be used in various ways in the kitchen. It is a superb salad potato, but can also be roasted, boiled and sautéed, for instance.

J00215

Further growing information

Plant the seed tubers around late March/early April, depending on where you live in the country; the colder the area, the later you should leave them.

Potatoes need a sunny position to crop well. Keep them well watered, especially in dry weather.

In the ground

Plant the seed tubers 12.5-15cm (5-6in) deep in well-prepared soil with added compost or other organic matter. Space them 30cm (12in) apart.

Sprinkle some of my Slug & Snail Control pellets around them, as slugs can be a problem. Add a general fertiliser, such as my Premium Natural Fertiliser, to the soil.

When the shoots are about 15-23cm (6-9in) high, start earthing up by carefully drawing soil up to the stems and covering them.

In a container

You can grow potatoes in large pots, potato bags or even large, heavy-duty plastic bags - such as an old 50-70 litre compost bag. Place 15cm (6in) of compost in the bottom of the container and plant the seed tubers within it. Four to five tubers will fit in a 70-litre bag or potato sack. If using a bag, pierce the bottom in a few places to allow excess water to drain out.

As the new shoots grow, keep adding more compost until the container is full. As you add more compost add a general fertiliser, such as my Premium Natural Fertiliser, to the compost.

Your new potatoes should be ready to lift in June or July, 13-15 weeks after planting. Wait until the flowers have opened or the flower buds drop and carefully check to see if they're big enough to eat.

UK Plant Passport
A Solanum tuberosum
B 130137
C 2021180201
D GB

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Visit our website for more information on Flower Power products as well as lots of gardening hints and tips.

www.richardjacksonsgarden.co.uk