

All About Berries

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Menu

Strawberries

Blueberries

Raspberries

Blackberries

Goji Berries

LCBs (Less Common Berries)



Strawberries! Four+ Types

- June Bearing—Short Day
- Everbearing
- Day-Neutral
- Alpine
- Pineberries



June Bearing— Short Day



Sensitive to day length and temperature

One large spring (May-July) crop

Flavorful berries, second year

Mother plants produce new plants

Rejuvenate each year after harvest

Sequoia, Chandler

Everbearing (Two Crop)



Not sensitive to day length or temperature

Two crops in spring and fall

Fruit tends to be smaller than June bearing

Remove flower clusters the first year

Albion, Ft. Laramie, Ozark Beauty, Quinault, Seascape

Day Neutral



Produce spring through fall

Flower if temperatures are below 90°F

Small berries of high quality

Less prone to diseases, less runners

Both day-neutral and everbearing cultivars are usually sold as “everbearing” in retail nurseries

Alpine

- Small, intense flavor
- Tolerates some shade
- Prefers cool conditions
- Highly susceptible to viruses
- No runners



Pineberries

- White strawberry
- Distinct appearance and tropical taste (pineapple!)
- Everbearing
- Crop yields increase with another everbearing strawberry
- Soft, short storage times
- Less yield than traditional everbearing strawberries



Stawberry Runners



Strawberry Soil and Planting



Full sun, except Alpine

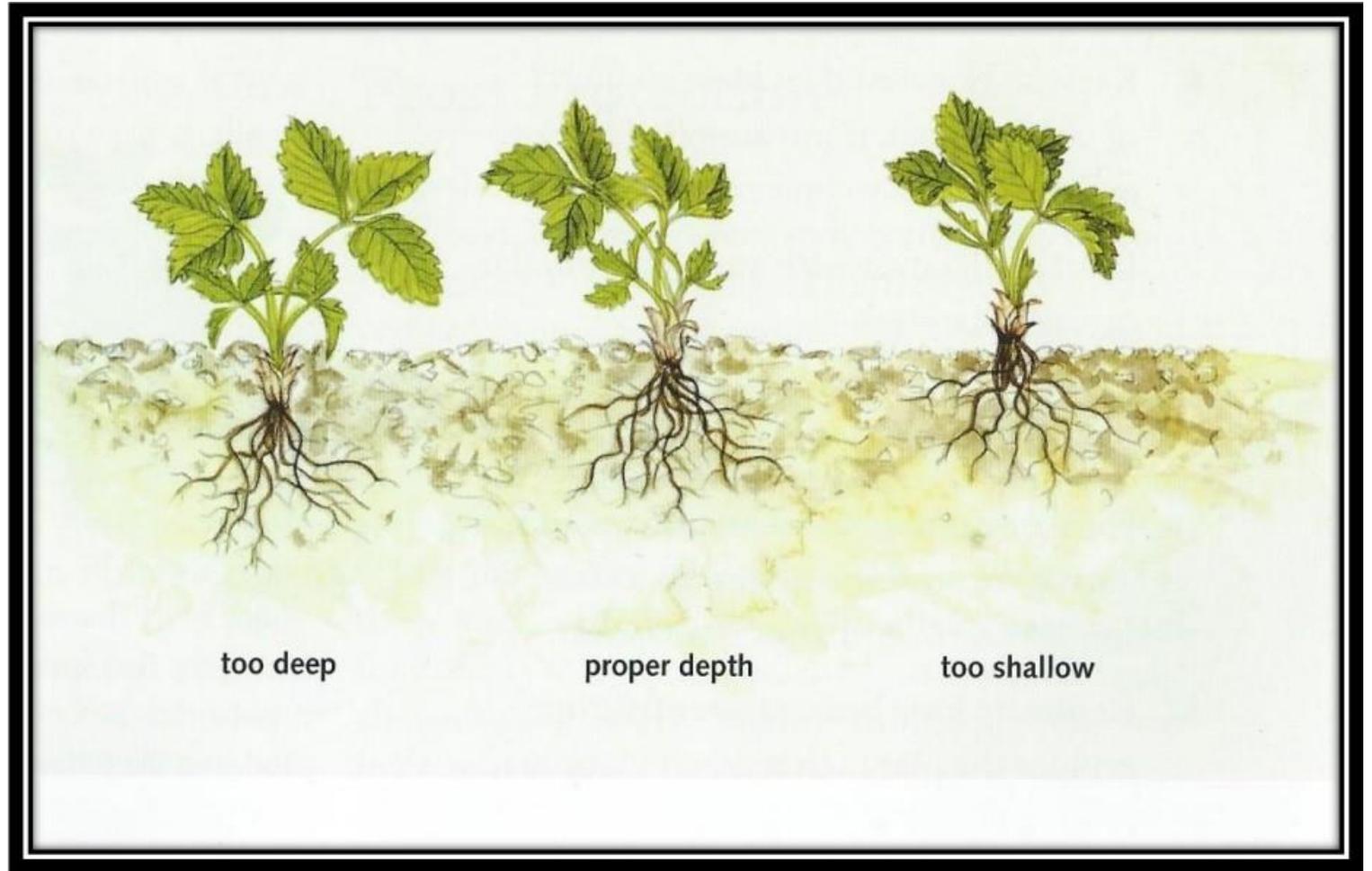
Loose, fertile soil

Compost, organic matter

Slightly acidic, pH 6.5-6.8

Spring and Fall planting

Strawberry Planting Depth



Fertilizing



- Organically rich soil at planting time
- June Bearing – Feed twice
- Lightly with new growth
- Heavily after fruiting
- Everbearing – Consistent light feedings
- Over feeding with nitrogen in spring results in excessive plant growth (big leaves)

Watering



- Newly planted—water immediately
- One inch a week
- Shallow roots (watch pots closely)
- Intense heat; water more
- Too much water during fruiting makes fruit bland

Mulching



Training Systems for Strawberries



Hill

Matted Row

Strawberry Planters



Hill System

- Create hills that are 2-3 feet apart
- Place plants one foot apart
- Pinch off all runners that form during the first season



Matted Row System

- Good for limited garden space
- Create rows spaced 4 feet apart.
- Place plants along the row, leaving 18" in between
- Allow runners to fill areas in between
- Avoid overcrowding





Strawberry Planters

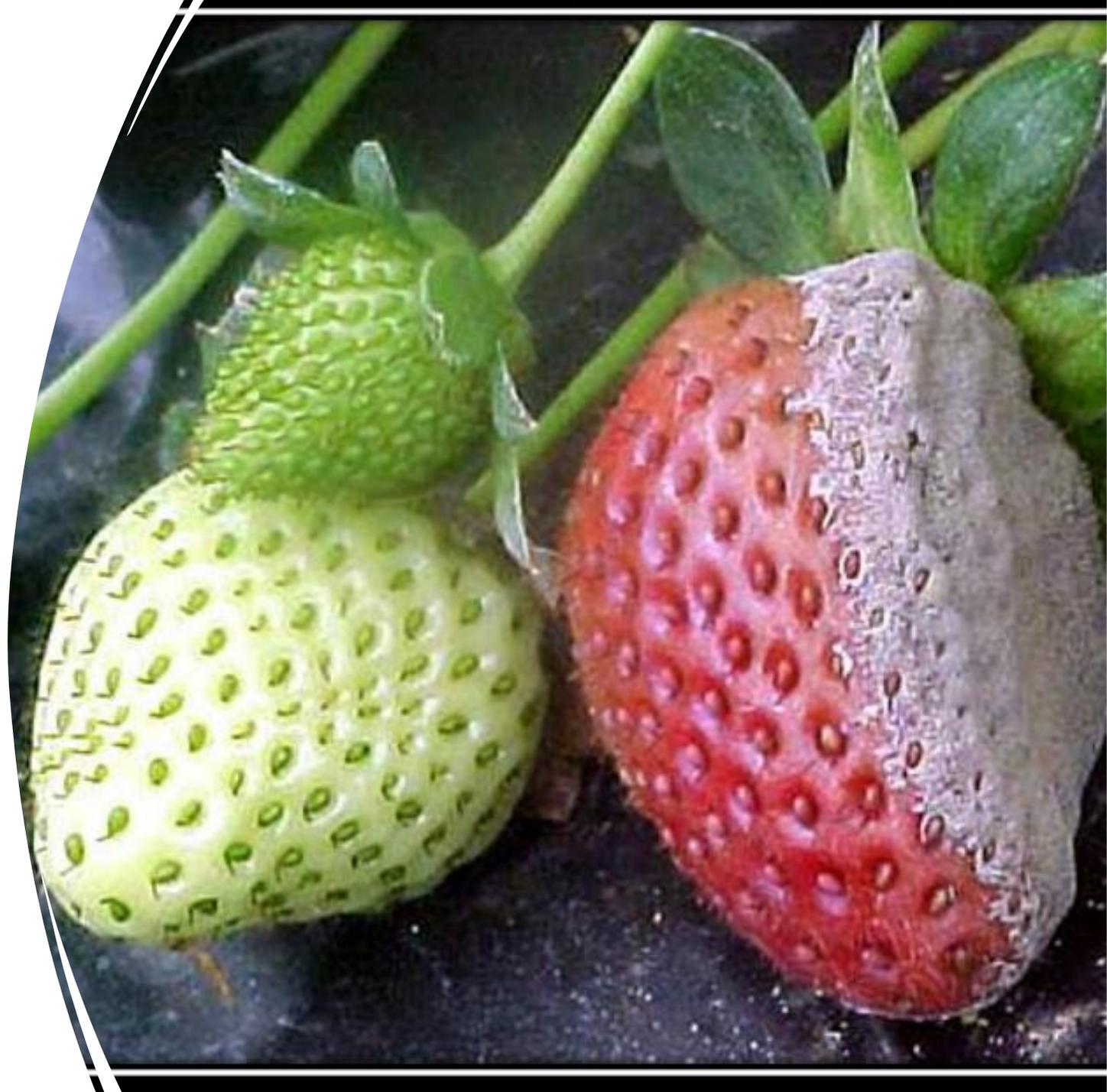




Putting Strawberries to Bed



Integrative Pest Management



Blueberries!



Blueberries 5 Types

High Bush

Low Bush

Pink Lemonade (high bush)

Rabbiteye

Half-high



High Bush Blueberries

Northern (Northeast)

Southern (Florida)

Large volume of fruit

Mature size: 5-6 feet tall & wide

2-3 years for a blueberry plant to become established and healthy

Generally self-fertile, cross-pollination by another cultivar produces larger berries



Blueberries! Pink Lemonade

- Highbush type
- Ripe fruit is bright pink
- Same flavor as a “blue” Blueberry
- Flowers are light pink
- Mature size: 5 feet tall & wide



United States Department of Agriculture
AgResearch Magazine



Blueberries! Low Bush

- “Wild” Blueberries
- Compact plants: 2 feet tall & wide
- Smaller size fruit than Highbush
- Decent harvest with tiny berries
- Strong flavor!
- Lowbush blueberries are not self-fertile



Blueberries! Rabbiteye

- More heat tolerant than highbush or lowbush
- Native to the southeastern United States
- Lower chilling requirement
- More susceptible to spring frosts
- Bit more tolerant of drought and less-than-ideal pH
- Taller than highbush variety
- Tough-skinned, sweet fruit
- Not self-fertile - require a different rabbiteye cultivar for successful pollination



Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Half-high Blueberries

- Cross between northern highbush and lowbush blueberries
- Cultivars tolerate -35°F to -45°F
- Fruiting area is protected below the snow line
- Used as attractive landscape plants

Soil and Site Requirements



Easy to
grow once
established



Test soil –
Acidic soil:
pH 4.5-5.5



Full sun to
partial
shade



Soil
Recommendation
for healthy,
vigorous plants in
pots

One third 1/4" pathway bark

One third peat moss

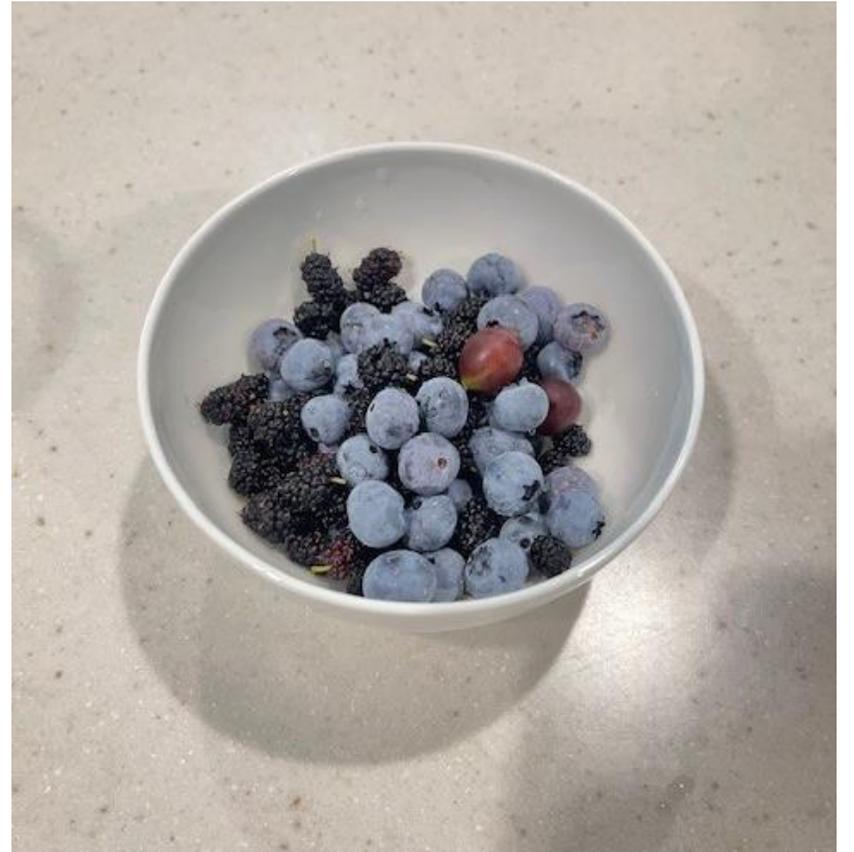
One third azalea potting mix

1 handful of soil sulfur per plant



Acidifying the Soil – Are They Effective?

- Pine needles
- Coffee grounds
- Cottonseed meal
- Elemental sulfur
- Fertilizers that contain the ammonium



Fertilizing

- Acid-loving or fruit/berry fertilizer
- Fertilize established plants in late winter
- Wait 2-3 weeks after planting to fertilize new plants



Watering

- Keep plants moist after planting
- Consistent moisture from blossom to fall color
- When weather cools reduce water



Mulching



Pruning Blueberries

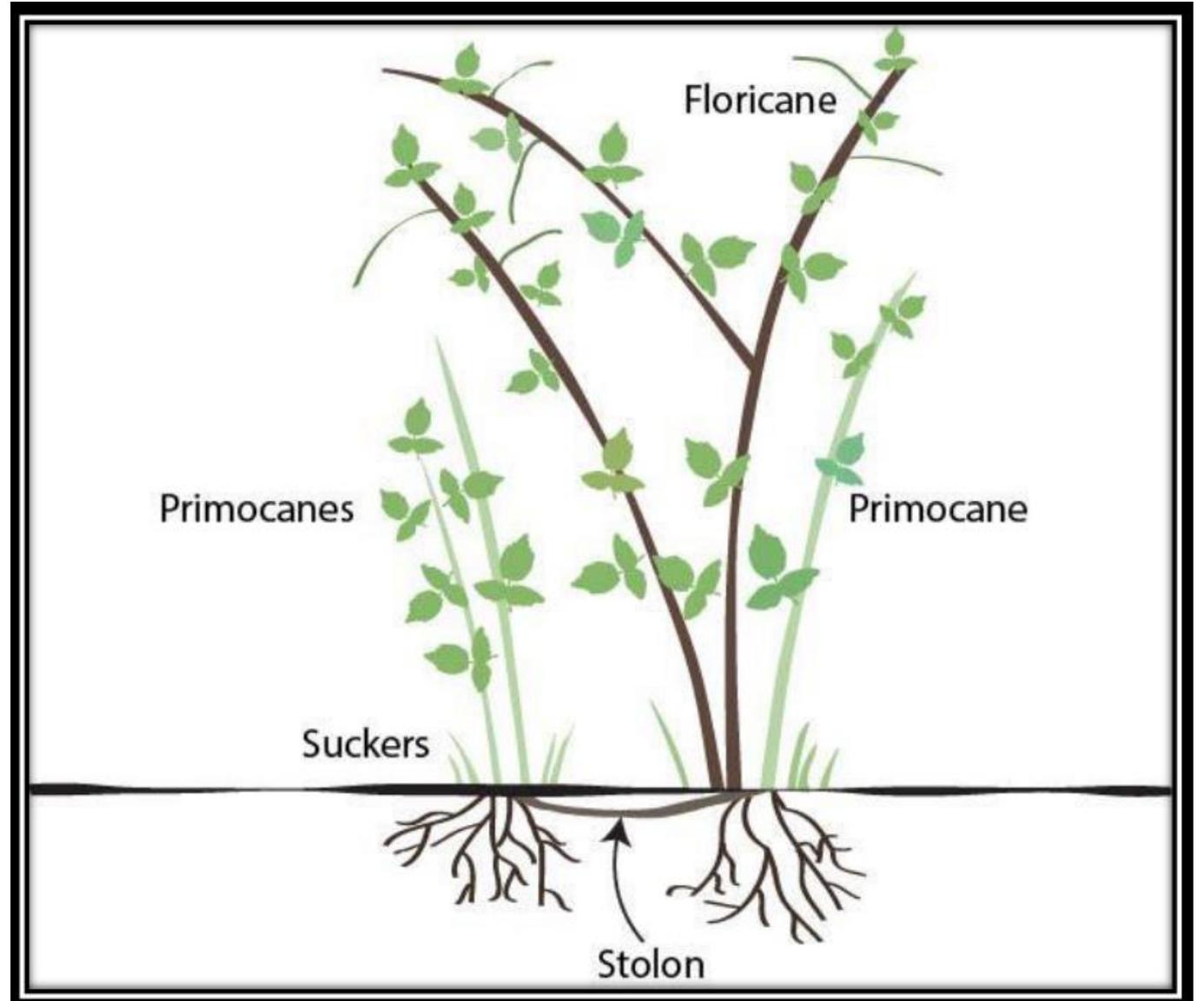
- Early spring while plants are still dormant
- Natural bushy form – limit branch to the age of the plant with maximum of 6 to 8 branches for old bushes
- Yearly remove 1-2 branches so that no branches are over 4-6 years old
- Prune out suckers and weak wood
- Dead, broken, diseased canes



Raspberries and Blackberries!



Raspberry and Blackberry Plants



Types of Raspberries

- Summer Bearing – Majority
- Fall Bearing
- Based on their fruit color: red, golden-yellow, black, and purple



Red Raspberries



Summer Bearing

Produce canes that grow one year, then bear fruit the next

Fall Bearing

Produce canes that bear large crops on the tips of the current season's growth in late summer and fall

If not pruned, the canes overwinter and bear a second crop in the spring on the lower portions of the canes





Gold Raspberries

Red raspberry mutant

Same characteristics of the red raspberry

Mild flavor

Common types: Fall Gold, Golden Harvest



Black Raspberries (Black Caps)

- Produce fruit on arched or trailing canes
- New canes are not produced from old roots but develop from the base of old canes



Soil and Site Requirements



Perform best in well-drained, sandy loam or loam soils

Soil 5.5 to 7.0.

Not picky about soil but needs organic matter

Good drainage

Full sun; some afternoon shade

Fertilizer and Watering



Heavy feeders

Use composted manure

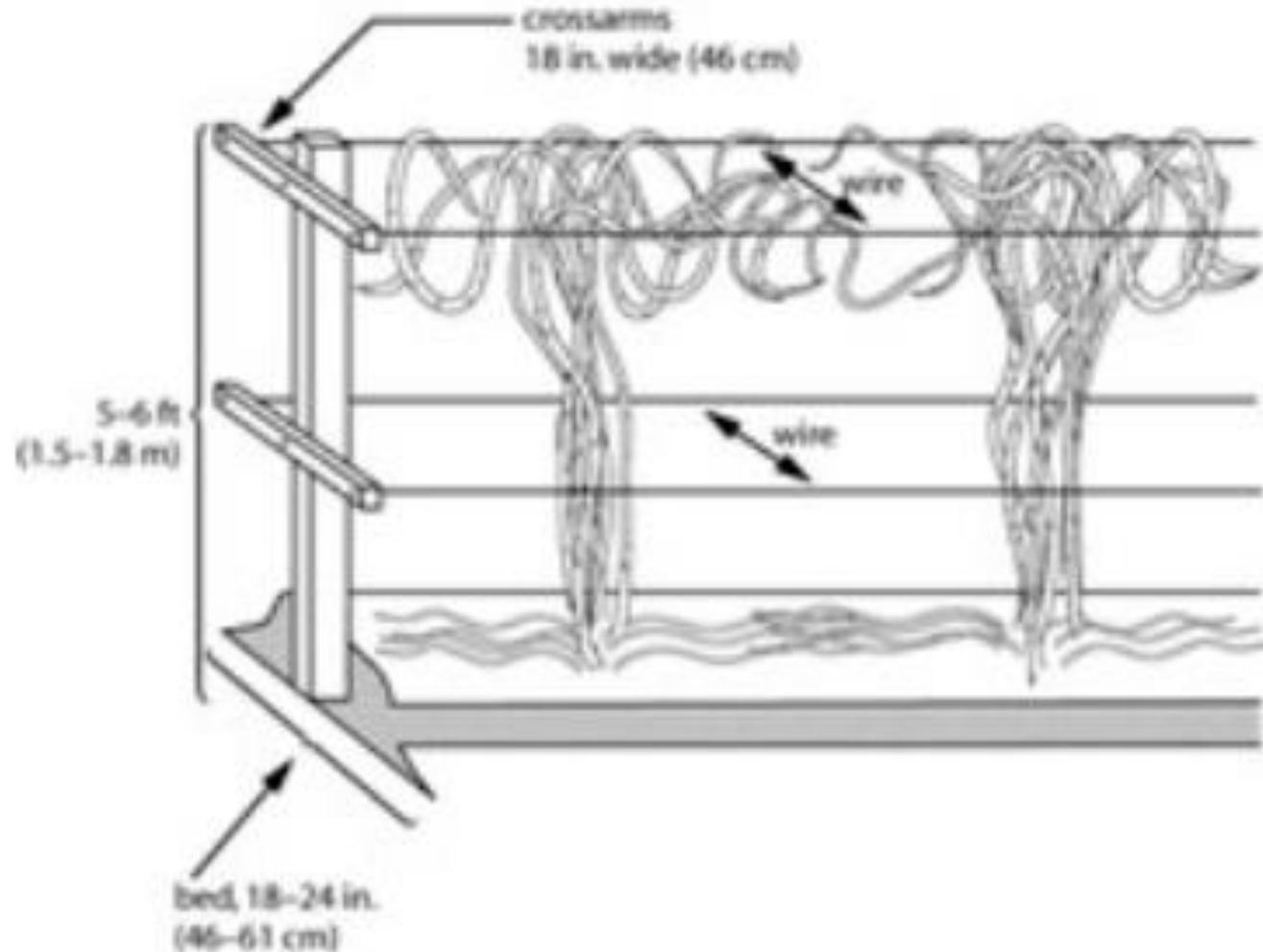
Organic slow release

Water 1 inch - 1 ½ inch per week

Regular watering is most beneficial

Cane Support System

- A four-wire trellis system, which uses two high and two low wires attached to the outside ends of 18 inch crossarms works well
- The two upper wires are placed 5 to 6 feet above the ground
- The two lower wires are placed approximately 30 inches above the ground





Pruning Raspberries

- Summer Red and Gold
 - Remove all floricanes which bore fruit
 - Remove all weak, broken, and disease when dormant
- In the hedgerow system, thin the canes to about four to five strong canes per foot of row



Blackberries



Adapted to California—heat tolerant

1885--Himalayan blackberry introduced

Became invasive species

Canes are vigorous; larger than raspberries

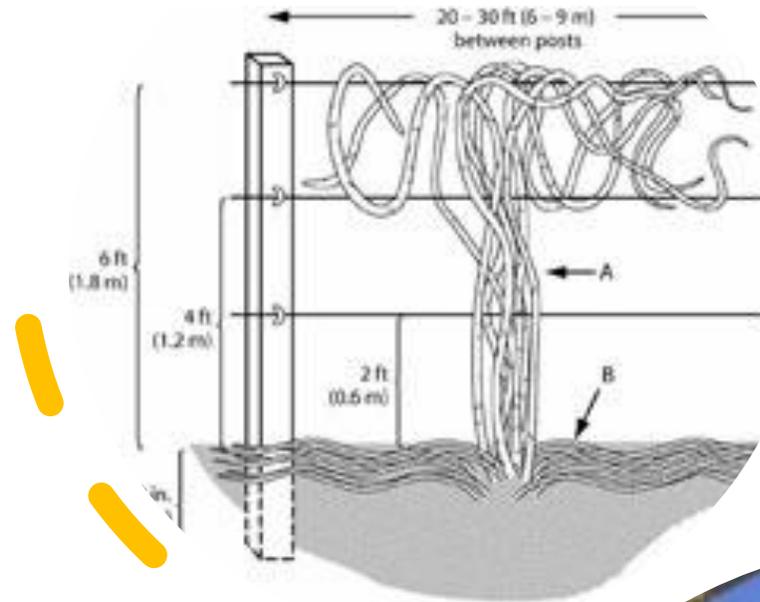
Three Basic Types of Blackberries

- Erect
 - Stiff, arching canes
 - Can be self-supporting
 - Thorny & thornless cultivars
- Semi-erect
 - Stiff canes
 - Longer than erect
 - All semi-erect cultivars are thornless
- Trailing
 - Long canes not self-supporting



Blackberry Support

- Trailing blackberries require a trellis system to support the fruiting canes
- Erect blackberries grow without support
- Trellises keep the planting neater and make harvest easier



Soil and Site Requirements

Full sun—at least 8 hours

Deep, well-drained soil

Optimum pH of 6.5

Good supply of organic matter

Don't plant near wild blackberries



Fertilizer and Water Requirements

Manure or compost in the late fall or early winter

Yearly application of a nitrogen-containing fertilizer for good growth and fruit production

Regular moisture throughout growing season

Water twice a week – More often during fruiting or during hot, windy conditions



Goji Berries!



Goji Berry

- Same family as tomato
- Taste like a red tomato-pepper
- Native to Southeast Asia
- Plants are typically 3 to 6 feet tall
- Solitary, purple blossoms form in the late spring
- Plants are self fruitful
- Can become invasive via stolon (suckers)





Goji Berry

- Approximately 35 days flower to fruit
- Mid-summer to late fall
- Heavy fruit production starting year 3
- Fresh berries do not transport or store well – dry them or freeze them
- Leaves used for tea or powdered and used as a nutritional supplement
- Pests are minimal – leaf gall (goji gall mite)

Site and Soil Requirements

Enjoy full sun (afternoon shade can be tolerated)

Fruit quality is best during hot, dry conditions

Slightly alkaline soil (pH of 7 to 8)

Not soil picky but do not like being consistently wet

Fertilizer and Water

No specific fertilizer
recommendations

Young cultivars feed like a tomato

Overfeeding reduces fruit quality

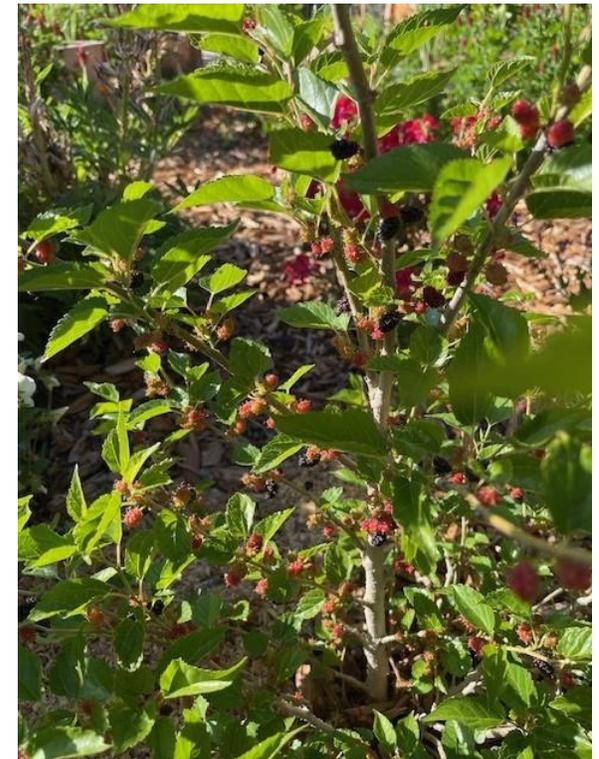
Approximately 1 inch of water
per week

Goji Pruning/Support

- Fruits form on current year's wood
- During the early summer, pinch off the top 2 to 3 inches of terminal growth
- Trellis like cane berries
- Limit plant height to keep harvesting manageable
- Suckers generally appear after 3 years

LCBs - Less Common Berries

- Mulberries
- Red and White Currants
- American Beautyberry
- Jostaberry
- Gooseberry
- Goumi Berry



Goji Support





University of California

The California Garden Web

Summary

Strawberries

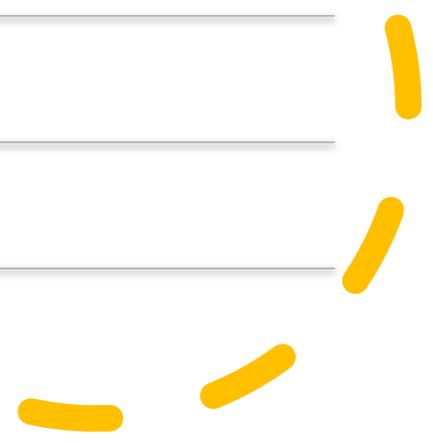
Blueberries

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Goji berries

Less Common Berries

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Questions?

