Strawberries

Why grow strawberries?
Strawberries

Smoothie Time
Four Types of Strawberries

• June Bearing—Short Day
• Everbearing
• Day-Neutral
• Alpine
Strawberries

- June Bearing—Short Day
  - Sensitive to day length and temperature
  - Produces one large crop
  - Large, flavorful berries, second year
  - Mother plants produce new plants
  - Rejuvenate each year after harvest
Strawberries

• Everbearing
  – Similar to short day
  – Not sensitive to day length or temperature
  – Two crops in spring and fall
  – Fruit tends to be smaller than June bearing
  – Remove first flower clusters the first year
Strawberries

• Day-Neutral
  – Produce spring through fall
  – Heat sensitive
  – Small berries of high quality
  – Less prone to diseases
  – Remove first flower clusters the first year
Strawberries

- Alpine
  - Small, intense flavor
  - Tolerates some shade
  - Prefers cool conditions
  - No runners
Soil and Site Requirements

• Full sun, except Alpine
• Loose, fertile soil
• Compost, organic matter
• Slightly acidic, pH 6.5-6.8
Planting Depth

too deep  proper depth  too shallow
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
• Intense heat; water more
• Too much water during fruiting makes fruit bland
Mulching
Removing Blossoms

- Short Day—June Bearing
- First year to increase vegetative growth
- Increases fruit production
Training Systems

- Hill
- Matted Row
- Strawberry Planter
Hill System
Strawberry Support
Matted-Row System
Strawberry Planter
Harvesting
Harvesting
Harvesting
Rejuvenating the Beds
Removing Leaves
Rejuvenating the Beds
Narrowing the Row
Pest Control
Critters
Pest Control
Diseases
Blueberries

Why grow blueberries?
Blueberries
Varieties of Blueberries

• High Bush
• Low Bush
• Pink Lemonade (high bush)
• Rabbiteye
Blueberries

• Highbush
  – Northern
  – Southern
• Most commonly grown by the home gardener
• Largest volume of fruit
• Mature size: 5-6 feet tall & wide
Blueberries

• Pink Lemonade—Highbush
  – Ripe fruit is bright pink
  – Same flavor as a “blue” Blueberry
  – Flowers are light pink
  – Mature size: 5 feet tall & wide
Blueberries

• Lowbush *aka* “Wild” Blueberries
  – Compact plants: 2 feet tall & wide
  – Smaller size fruit than Highbush
  – Decent harvest with tiny berries have a more flavorful punch
Blueberries

• Rabbiteye
  – More heat tolerant than highbush or lowbush
  – Small, tough-skinned, sweet fruit
Soil and Site Requirements

• Easy to grow once established
• Test soil
  – Acidic soil: pH 4.5-5.5
• Full sun to partial shade
Soil Mix.
For healthy, vigorous plants mix the following:
One third 1/4" pathway bark
One third peat moss
One third azalea potting mix
1 handful of soil sulfur per plant

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Planting

- Spring for El Dorado County
- Space highbush 5-6 feet apart
- To create a hedge space 3 feet apart
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
Container Planting
Harvesting
Pruning New Plants

• Remove blooms first year
  – Plant becomes well established
  – Produces fruit in the following years
Pruning Established Plants

Before pruning

After pruning
Pest Control Critters
Raspberries

Why grow raspberries?
Raspberries

- One of the easiest fruits to grow
- Nearly everyone loves them 💖
Types of Raspberries

• Summer Bearing
  – Majority are summer bearing

• Everbearing *aka* Fall Bearing
Soil and Site Requirements

• Brambles *aka* Cane Berries
  – Not picky about soil but needs organic matter
  – Good drainage
  – Full sun; some afternoon shade
Diagram of a Plant

Primocanes

Primocane

Suckers

Stolon

Floricane
Raspberry Hedgerow
Raspberry Jumpers
Planting Raspberries
Fertilizing Raspberries

• Heavy feeders
• Use composted manure
• Organic slow release
Watering Raspberries

• 1 inch - 1 ½ inch per week
  – Regular watering is most beneficial
• From spring until after harvest
Mulching Raspberries

- Use 2 inch layer of mulch
  - Reduces weeds
  - Retains moisture
Pest Control
Pest Control
Blackberries

Why grow blackberries?
Blackberries

- Adapted to California—heat tolerant
- 1885--Himalayan blackberry introduced
- Became invasive species
Blackberries

- Canes are vigorous; larger than raspberries
Flowering Blackberries
Three Basic Types of Blackberries

• Erect
• Semi-erect
• Trailing
Blackberries

• Erect
• Stiff, arching canes
• Can be self-supporting
• Excellent fruit
• Thorny & thornless cultivars
Blackberries

- Semi-erect
- Stiff canes
- Longer than erect
- All semi-erect cultivars are thornless
Blackberries

- Trailing
- Longer canes, not self-supporting
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
Unsupported Blackberries
Pruning Similar to Raspberries

- No fruit first year
- Primocanes
- Floricanes
Fertilizing

- Organic fertilizer in late fall, early winter
- Organic, granular fertilizer in spring
Watering

• Regular moisture throughout growing season

• Generally water twice a week
  – More often during fruiting or during hot, windy conditions
Mulching

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES
Harvesting
Pest Control
Pest Control

• Buy healthy, certified disease free stock from a reputable nursery
Right Plant…Right Place