



# Information Sheets

## Small Fruits and Berries

### Picking a Location

Choose a spot that will receive full sun for as much of the day as possible. The location should be somewhat open to allow air circulation this will help prevent fungi from damaging fruit. Loose well draining soil high in organic matter will also help. Avoid planting in a location where the same variety of plant has recently been removed. This will avoid the spread of disease.

### Planting

For shrub and cane producers dig a 1sqM or 3sqft plot for each plant. Remove all weeds and add plenty of organic matter to help loosen the soil. Very heavy clay soils will hold to much water and cause root-rot. The only satisfactory plan is to add topsoil to raise the planting bed.

Check for any special pH requirements of the variety you are planting. Plants that prefer acidic soils should have peat moss &/or steer manure added to the planting mixture. Plants that prefer alkaline soils should have dolomite lime 7?or peat moss added to the planting mixture.

### Planting mixture –per wheel barrow

- 1part (existing) topsoil
- 1part peat moss
- 1part manure
- 3 handfuls bone meal
- 3 handfuls dolomite lime (if required)

### Fertilizing

A spring dressing of fertilizer promotes a good crop, and will encourage the new growth that will provide next year's crop. Use a fertilizer such as 10-15-20, or 8-20-20 At the manufacturers specifications. Occasional foliar spraying with a product like miracle grow will also help. Yellowing leaves and poor fruit development may mean a lack of minerals such as iron, boron, or manganese. These can be found in a product marketed as fritted trace elements (FTE).

### Mulching

Mulching will help keep down weeds which compete with plants for water light and nutrients. The mulch will also release nutrients into the soil and slow water loss through evaporation. Peat moss, manure, composted bark, and composted yard waste are all suitable.