



Incorporating Fruit Into Your Home Garden

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So Want To Grow Fruit?

- Commitment
 - Perennials
 - Care and maintenance
- Space in the landscape
- USDA hardiness zone and chill hour requirements
- Use (fresh, canned, baking, etc.)
- Taste (sour or sweet)



Types

Small Fruits

Blackberries

Blueberries

Grapes

Raspberries

Strawberries

Tree Fruits

Apples

Cherries

Peaches

Pears

Plums



Niche Crops

Aronia berries

Cranberries

Currants

Elderberries

Figs

Goji berries

Gooseberries

Hardy citrus & kiwi

Mulberries

Paw paws

Persimmons

Pomegranate



Site Considerations

- Location is free from...
 - Frost pockets
 - Low/wet spots
 - Exposure to strong winds
- Sandy loam or sandy clay loam soil, well-draining soil
- General pH range 5.5 to 7.0
 - 6.0 to 6.5 is optimal
 - 4.5 to 5.5 for blueberries



Ordering Your Plants

- Purchase during fall or spring
 - Both in store and online
 - Summer clearance?
- Inspect for insects and diseases
- Inspect for shriveled roots
- 1-year old trees preferred
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter
 - 4 to 7 feet



Blueberries



Blueberries

- Rabbit-eye or southern highbush varieties
 - South highbush (SHB) is not well documented or researched in the state
 - Rabbite-eye is native to SE Virginia
 - Generally self-fertile, but cross-pollination produce larger fruit and higher yields
- Fruits on 1-year old wood
- Harvest from June to September



Blueberries

SHB

| Early Season | Mid-Season | Late-Season |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| O'Neal | Pamlico* | Lenoir* |
| Reville | Sampson | Legacy |
| Cape Fear | Duplin | |
| | Blueridge | |

RE

| Early Season | Mid-Season | Late-Season |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Premier | Montgomery | Onslow |
| | Columbus* | Powderblue |
| | Tifblue | |
| | Yadkin | |

* Denotes that a pollinator is needed





Caneberries: Blackberries and Raspberries



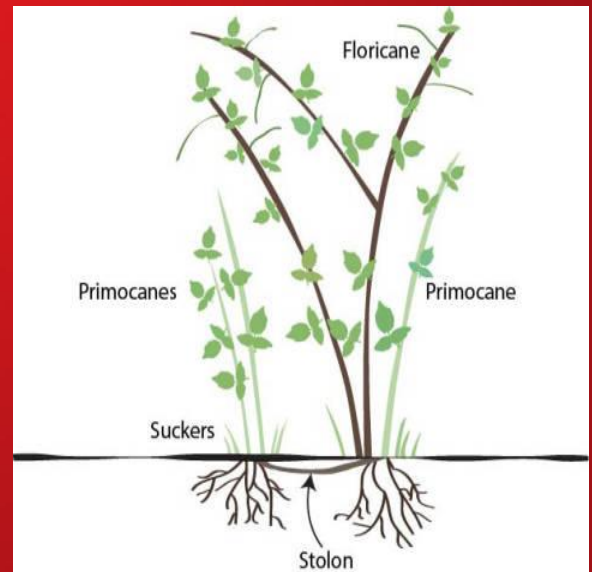
Caneberries

- Canes are biennial, crown is perennial
- Canes grow from the crown every year
- Thorn and thornless varieties
- Fruiting types
 - Primocanes fruit on new growth
 - Floricanes fruit on 2-year old wood
- Training and trellising is recommended



Primocanes

- Green, fleshy stalks
- Annual growth
- Produces fruit mid to late summer
- Proper pruning can produce another harvest the following year

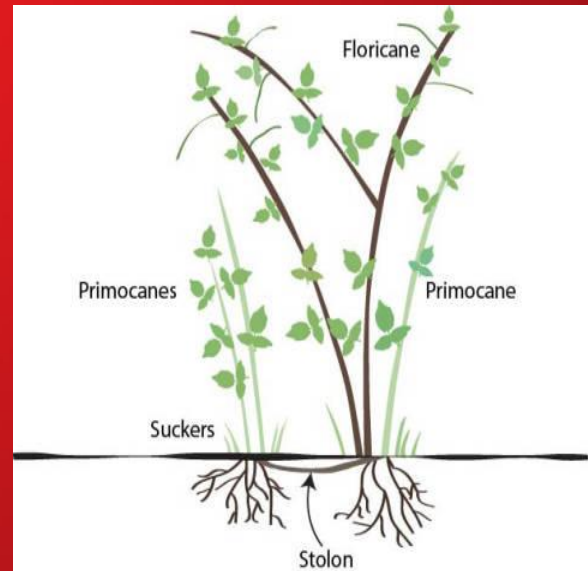


Credit: University of Minnesota Extension



Floricanes

- Woody, brown
- 2nd year cane produced by primocanes
- Fruits early to mid summer, then dies



Credit: University of Minnesota Extension



Strawberries



Strawberries

- Two types
 - June-bearing (short-day)
 - Less than 14 hours of daylight
 - Ever-bearing (day-neutral)
- Fruiting for more than 2 years results in smaller berries and weaker plants
- Stolons are vigorous



Pest Management



Pests

- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - Scout
 - Prevention
 - Biologicals
 - Chemicals, if necessary
 - Dormant oils, all-in-one sprays



Resources

- Blueberries – VT publication 438-103
- Grapes – VT publication 463-019
- Small fruits – VT publication 426-840
- Tree fruits – VT publication 426-841
- Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners (Michigan State University)



Resources

- Backyard Fruit Growers (Facebook)
- North American Fruit Explorers
- North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association
- Virginia State University Berry Production & Marketing Conference (March)



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