

# blackmoor

Blackmoor

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Dear Customer,

Thank you for ordering from Blackmoor Nurseries. We trust you will be pleased with your plants and by following our growing guide below we hope you have many years of success with them. Our plants have been professionally grown on our Nursery with the correct attention to nutrients, and pest and disease control. They are despatched in good condition ready to establish and thrive in your garden for many years to come.

Please unpack and inspect your plants immediately on arrival.

## CARE GUIDE FOR SOFT FRUITS

### BARE ROOT SOFT FRUIT

#### Post-Delivery Handling, Storage and Planting Advice

**VERY IMPORTANT:** On arrival plants should be watered and heeled in or planted within 48 hours. Your bare root plants have been lifted, handled and stored prior to delivery in the most careful and professional way. It is possible that due to the time in transit that roots may have dried out to some extent, this is not detrimental provided the following advice is followed.

Immediately soak all roots with water and preferably even root dip in bucket of water for between 1 and 2 hours. Place bundles root to root in a frost free building and cover against drying out and for vermin protection.

**Heeling in:** This is recommended if plants are not planted or potted within 48 hours. Select a well drained loose and friable soil. Sand, peat and other soil-less mediums are also very good for this purpose. Lay in such a way as to bring soil into close contact with all roots. Bundles should be cut open at the bottom and laid with their roots well spread out in an adequate trench, covered with soil and firmed. If possible position your heeling in area in the shade on the north side of a building, this will keep your trees dormant for longer as spring approaches.

**Planting:** It is better to plant late in good conditions than early in poor conditions. If planting conditions are not ideal when the plants arrive then heeling in is recommended and allow the right planting moment to be taken from then on.

**Position:** For most fruits choose a warm sheltered position avoiding wet or shaded spots, although soft fruit will tolerate some shade. Avoid north walls except when planting blackberries which will crop successfully, albeit, a little later in the season. Crops are likely to be sparse in frosty situations. If birds are troublesome a fruit cage can be erected.

**Soil Preparation:** Dig the area to be planted and make sure the soil is clear from perennial weeds. If your soil is acid, mix in some lime, likewise add compost to a light sandy soil. If you have heavy clay, mix in some sand and plant on a raised bed to help drainage. Add Rootgrow to the roots. This helps to ensure the establishment and lifetime health of your plants. Mycorrhizal fungi are critically important to those plant groups to ensure good establishment and better early growth.

**Please note:** All newly planted plants take longer to come out of their dormancy in the first spring following planting and this delay can vary greatly between individual plants so please give them until late May/early June to begin growing. Ensure that the area where they are planted is kept moist as lack of watering or rainfall will increase the delay in the plants beginning to shoot. Frequency of the watering must be increased once they begin growing as they have insufficient roots when young to tolerate drought and this will cause the plants to fail. Never allow newly planted bushes to fruit in the first season as this also places strain on good root establishment.

All plants should be in perfect condition when they arrive but if there are any minor broken tips or shoots these should be pruned off prior to planting. The roots of bare rooted plants may have dried out during transit and therefore it is advisable to soak them for approximately an hour prior to planting and if you have purchased containerised plants these should also be thoroughly watered prior to planting.

Planting of containerised bushes can take place all year round but is inadvisable when the soil is too wet or frozen. Bare rooted bushes should be planted within 48 hours of arrival, if you are unable to do so or the soil is too wet or frozen, temporarily heel them in until the conditions improve and the soil becomes friable.

With both containerised and bare rooted plants the planting site should have been enriched with compost or well-rotted manure, deeply dug in prior to the arrival of the bushes. Planting holes should not be dug until planting takes place.

Dig holes large enough to accommodate the roots/rootball without cramping. Return fine soil making sure it is well worked in around the roots/rootball by gently shaking the plants. Newly planted bushes benefit considerably from mulching with well-rotted manure or garden compost and an application of general fertilizer such as 'Growmore' or blood, fish and bone, which will also encourage stronger growth.

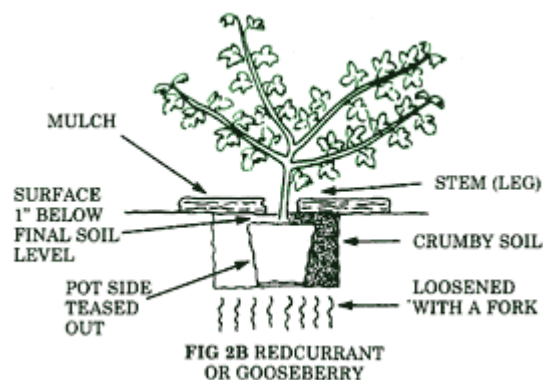
**Blackcurrants:** Plant 5 ft (1.5 m) apart with 5 ft or more between rows. Plant blackcurrants firmly and deeply so that good strong young growth will come from the base.

**Bare Root Only:** After planting *always* cut back all the shoots to about 1" (2.5 cms) from the ground

**Potted Plants:** Do not need cutting down.

Prune in subsequent years by removing about a third of the wood to encourage young basal shoots.

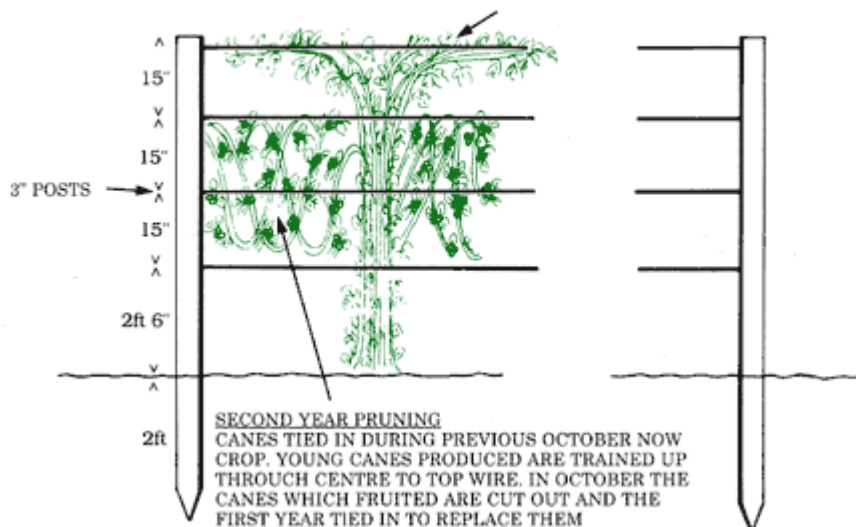
**Redcurrants, Whitecurrants And Gooseberries:** Plant bushes 5 feet (1.5 m) apart with 6 ft (1.8 m) between the rows. These plants are normally grown with a short stem or 'leg' and any suckers, which are evident, should be removed from the root system prior to planting. The bushes should not be planted too deeply. After planting, shorten the leading shoots by about half their length to encourage a strong framework. Subsequently fruiting is encouraged by 'spur' pruning the young lateral shoots to an inch (2.5 cm) in the case of redcurrants and whitecurrants, and 3" for gooseberries. The leaders are shortened by about a third of their length each winter.



**Blackberries, Loganberries, Tayberries And Japanese Wineberries:** Plant 6–10 feet apart (1.8–3 m). These plants should also not be planted too deeply. Water plants in well after planting. Subsequently pruning is similar to Raspberries. Canes that have fruited are cut out immediately after fruiting.

FIG 9

**FIRST YEAR PRUNING**  
IN OCTOBER THE YOUNG CANES WHICH HAVE BEEN TRAINED UP TO TOP WIRE ARE THEN LOWERED AND TIED TO LOWER 3 WIRES



### PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

**Greenfly And Aphids:** Keep a close eye on the back of the leaves from April until the end of May and spray when seen with a suitable pesticide. Bug Clear for fruit & Vegetables will control any aphids.

**Fungus Diseases:** It is highly beneficial and desirable to frequently spray soft fruit bushes with a suitable fungicide for the control of Mildew from early spring until the end of May.

**Blackcurrant Gall Mite (Big Bud):** This pest is one of the most serious encountered by the blackcurrant grower, especially since they also transmit reversion disease, which will progressively reduce the yields to a point where the bushes are unproductive. Now lime sulphur is no longer available there is no other chemical available that will give good control of the mite. A suitable fungicide will give some protection when used three times at 14 day intervals, starting at the first open flower stage. In addition carefully examine the bushes in January–February and remove and burn any big buds (especially rounded and enlarged). Do not drop them on the soil.

NOTE: Always use sprays according to the manufacturer's instructions.

This guide is for general information purposes only as soil conditions and requirements vary greatly.