

2019 Fruit Plant Descriptions

Thornless Blackberries: Sold bare root

- Floricane varieties produce fruit earlier in the year but require selective pruning. Primocane varieties can be cut to the ground each spring, however they don't produce fruit until fall. A primocane variety can be managed like a floricane variety to get summer fruit but this reduces production. There are advantages to each, but primocane varieties are easiest for beginners.
- Self-fertile, do not require 2nd variety for fruit.
- For more information on pruning come to our Home berry production class March 13th or see <https://rubus.ces.ncsu.edu/rubus-home-gardeners/>

Variety	Season	Description
'Ouachita'	Mid July/August Floricane (Produces fruit on previous season's growth) Prune selectively.	Developed by University of AR. Large, firm, sweet, attractive berries, very erect canes, with intermediate vigor, resistant to anthracnose, and double blossom/rosette. Our favorite in the garden at the office. With proper pruning needs minimal trellising. New growth that emerges mid-summer during fruiting is what produces next year's fruit.
'Prime Ark Freedom'	Fall Primocane (Produces fruit on new growth, can be cut to ground each year)	Developed by University of Ark. med-large berries. Respond favorably to tipping an inch off each new stem as the new growth reaches 12-15". Tip again when branches reach 30". This process encourages branching, stimulates earlier fruit development, keeps plant height in check, and increases yield. Can produce very large berries if pruned as a floricane variety to produce summer crop.

Blueberries: 3-year-old plants in 1 gal pots

- Plant 2-3 different varieties for increased production.
- All varieties are northern highbush varieties for best hardiness, choose early mid and late season to extend fruiting season.
- Consider using in the landscape as a shrub to provide spring flowers, summer berries, and fall color.
- For more information on growing blueberries visit https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/14-small-fruits-section_heading_8163

Variety	Season	Description
Duke	Early	Open erect habit 4-6 ft., medium to large uniform berries with slightly tart berries that maintain flavor well in storage. Berries are very firm and retain their quality better than most other varieties.
Patriot	Early	Patriot is an early variety released by the University of Maine. This variety is vigorous and grows upright to 4-6 ft. Adapts to different soil types and has performed better in heavier soil than some other varieties. The fruit is large, freezes well and has very good flavor.

Northland	Mid season	Northern Highbush and Lowbush varieties were crossed to provide extreme cold hardiness. Will mature at 4 ft. x 4 ft. It has a wider, bushier growth habit, and attractive yellow bark, making it ideal for landscaping. Medium sized, mild berries with high sugar content.
Blue Crop	Mid season	The leading commercial blueberry variety grown. Known for its hardiness, vigor and consistent production. High yields of large, bright blue berries that are firm, with superb flavor and grow in large clusters. Suitable fresh or for freezing. The plant grows to a height of 4-6 feet.
Blue Gold	Mid season	Highly productive, with superior quality berries. Fruit ripening is concentrated, with harvesting in 1 or 2 picks making it ideal for freezing or processing into jams. The plant grows compact, with a spreading habit making a great addition to any landscape. The mature height is 4-6', with yellow fall foliage. The favorite of our grower.
Jersey	Late Season	One of the oldest and most widely grown blueberry varieties. Easy to grow and high-yielding. Berries, dark blue, medium in size, and very sweet. A tall 6-8 ft. well-shaped bush with a vigorous upright habit creates excellent ornamental value. Adaptable to varied soils.

Raspberries: Sold bare root

- Primocane varieties produce fruit on the current season's growth and can be pruned non-selectively each year for easy maintenance. Canes of floricanes varieties must grow the first season, then will flower the following summer, so must remain during spring pruning, then be removed after fruiting.
- For more information on growing raspberries visit <https://rubus.ces.ncsu.edu/rubus-home-gardeners/>

Variety	Season	Description
Latham	Summer Floricanes (selectively prune)	A release from Minnesota, combines good fruit quality with excellent winter hardiness. Medium to large, bright-red fruit is rounded in shape. Widely adapted, is suitable for home gardens and pick-your-own operations.
Anne	Fall Primocane (can cut to the ground in spring)	Large-fruited, very sweet flavor, holds a pale yellow color, and is highly productive
Polana	Fall Primocanes (prune all canes to ground in spring)	Highly productive, medium/large, glossy in appearance, cohesive, with good flavor. This variety has short canes that are vigorous.
Jewel	Summer Floricanes (selectively prune)	Released from the Cornell Small Fruit Breeding Program. Fruit is glossy black in color, large size, firm, and has a rich raspberry flavor. An excellent choice for use in jams and jellies, and freezing.

Grapes: Bare root

- Seedless, but note that they are slip skin. This means that the skin separates from the pulp and is thicker than the grapes you buy at the grocery store. The ones being sold, are crossed with American Grape varieties (*V. labrusca*) so will be more similar to 'Concord' but without seeds.
- Breeding is being done at several universities to develop a non slipskin seedless grape, but at this point there is not a variety that also provides other desirable characteristics such as cold hardiness and disease resistance. For more information <https://watauga.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Variety	Season	Description
Mars	Mid-Season	Highest producing grape in NC State table grape study. Medium-sized clusters of med-large slipskin berries that turn from crimson to deep blue at maturity. Thick slipskin, resistant to cracking. Fruit holds well on the vine and is suited for extended periods of harvest. Resistant to black rot, not sensitive to sulfur.

Asparagus: Bare root plants 12 per bundle (1 yr. plants that meet standards for 2 year plants)

- Perennial crop, do not harvest first year, harvest lightly the 2nd
- Likes a high pH between 6 and 7
- Visit for more info <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/asparagus>

Variety	Season	Description
Jersey Knight		Has natural disease resistance, is very vigorous, and produces large spears. Can produce for 15 years or more. Plant 12" apart.
Purple Passion		Attractive purple color. Flavor and tenderness distinguish this variety from others. Productive yields. Plant 6-8 inches apart in the row. When cooked, the bright purple color is reduced, but when served fresh in salads it provides a colorful accent.

Strawberries: Bare root 25 per bundle

- June bearing varieties produce one heavier crop for 2-3 weeks in summer, and produce more runners, requiring yearly stand maintenance. Everbearing will produce less fruit at one time but fruiting will continue from about 12-14 weeks after planting until frost. You may want some of each variety for the longest season of berries.
- 12"-15" between plants
- for more info [https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/14-small-fruits - section_heading_8163](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/14-small-fruits-section_heading_8163)

Variety	Season	Description
Sparkle	June bearing: one large crop for 2-3 weeks, in mid to late June.	Best for freezing, canning and making preserves. Large berries with superb flavor. Heavy producer, adaptable to a wide variety of growing conditions. Junebearer bloom are susceptible to late frost, for this reason we chose a later season Junebearer. Plants need to be cut and thinned after bearing. Matted row bed expected to last 3-5 years, remove blooms the first year.
San Andreas	Everbearing: late summer, less fruit at one time over a longer period	Some people prefer this type of bearer for fresh eating because they produce over a longer period. Large berries with nice firmness, some berries tend to be asymmetrical, excellent overall disease resistance. Do not require yearly bed renovation. Recommended to replace planting every 1-2 years. Produce fruit the season they are planted.