

FRUITS ARE EASY

...but each has a few simple techniques you need to know.

All fruits need:

- Full sun & average soil with good drainage
- Enough space to grow
- Winter hardiness or winter protection
- Proper pollination
- Proper planting depth and spacing
- Early training and yearly pruning
- Ample water
- Pest control

Other hardy fruits to grow in southern WI

- Pears (including Asian)
- Currants
- Gooseberries
- Elderberries

Fruits not reliably hardy in WI

- Peaches
- Sweet cherries
- Japanese plums
- French wine grapes

STRAWBERRIES



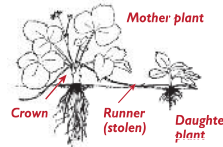
- Plant in early spring with the crown half covered and half exposed.
- Only Junebearing plants should be allowed to set runners.
- Do not use “mother” or “daughter” plants from old plantings for new beds.



Proper planting

Junebearing varieties:

- o Produce one crop in June in years 2 to 6.
- o Use “matted row” planting with plants 2’ apart in rows that are 3’ apart. Runners fill-in rows kept 12-15” wide.
- o Remove flowers the first year.
- o Fertilize the first year in mid-June and early August.
- o “Renovate” yearly after harvest, narrowing the rows to 12-15” and fertilizing twice, one month apart.



Everbearing and Day-neutral varieties:

- o Everbearing produce one large crop in early summer and once or twice more each season for two years.
- o Day-neutral produce continuously from July on but only for one year.
- o Remove flowers the first year for the first 6-8 weeks.
- o For both, use “hill” plantings in beds containing three rows of plants 1’ apart in all directions.
- o For both, remove flowers for the first 6-8 weeks the first year.
- o For both, fertilize once every month they are flowering or fruiting.
- Protect flower buds from late spring frosts.
- Watch for insects and diseases, properly identify and treat as needed.
- Mulch for winter with 6” of straw once soil has frozen. Uncover as growth resumes in spring.

For More Information

UW Extension Publications:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu> and 1-877-WIS-PUBS
 Home Fruit Cultivars for Southern WI (A2582)
 Home Fruit Cultivars for Northern WI (A2488)
 Growing Apples in WI (A3565)
 Apple cultivars for WI (A2105)
 Training and pruning apple trees (A1959)
 When are apples ripe? (A3743-E)
 Apple pest management (A2179)
 Growing apricots, cherries, peaches, & plums (A3639)
 Apricot,pest management (A2130)
 Growing grapes in WI (A1656)
 Grape pest management (A2129)
 Growing raspberries in WI (A1610)
 Raspberry pest management (A2128)
 Growing strawberries in WI (A1597)
 Strawberry pest management (A2127)

UW-Extension Horticulture Team

<http://hort.uwex.edu>
 Growing blueberries in containers (XHT1196)

UW-Extension Horticulture Help Lines

Milwaukee County	414-256-4664
Waukesha County	262-548-7779

UW-Extension Horticulture Center

at Boerner Botanical Gardens 414-525-5638

Become a Master Gardener Volunteer

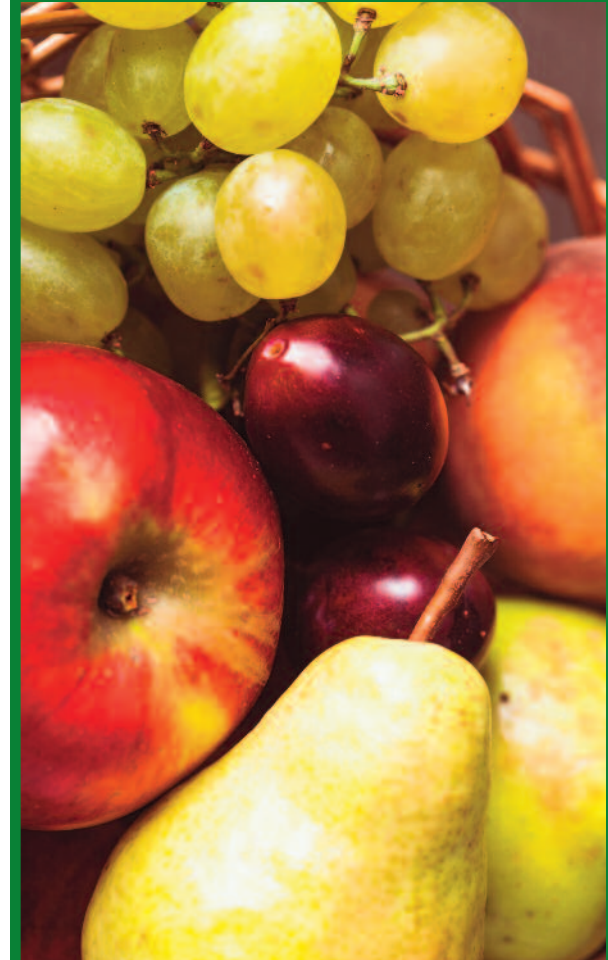
Milwaukee & Waukesha County MG Program

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg>
 414-256-4661 leave name, address, phone and e-mail to be placed on the mailing list for the next class.

<http://milwaukee.uwex.edu>



D.I.Y. Do-It-Yourself Fruits



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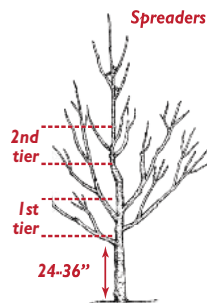
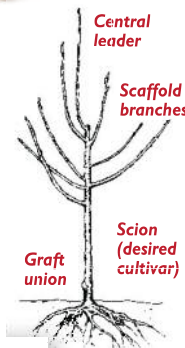


**SouthEast Wisconsin
 Master Gardeners**

APPLES



- Select disease-resistant varieties.
- Dwarf and semi-dwarf trees grow 10-20' x 10-20'.
- Plant a pollinator unless there's a crabapple within 200 yards
- Stake dwarf trees with a 10' post pounded 2' into the ground. Loosely tie to tree with a figure 8.
- Prune annually.
- Train branches to 60 degree angles using spreaders or weights for higher yield (see plums).
- Controlling pests is a major factor in producing quality apples.
 - o Major diseases controlled by planting resistant varieties:
 - Apple scab and cedar apple rust (fungus diseases)
 - Fireblight (bacterial disease)
 - o Insects include about 12 that damage the fruit and leaves.
 - "Bag" apples to reduce insect damage using zipper sandwich bags stapled over fruit when it's first forming.
 - Harvest when color at stem end turns light green and seeds are dark brown.
 - Prevent rodent damage with trunk guards in winter.



Varieties (in order of ripening)

Disease Resistant Varieties:

- Redfree
- Jonafree
- Liberty
- Priscilla
- Nova Easygro
- Enterprise

Moderately resistant:

- McIntosh
- Haralson
- Empire
- Red Delicious

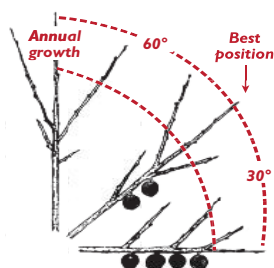
Other Popular varieties:

- Honeycrisp
- Wolf River

PLUMS



- 'Mount Royal' and 'Stanley' plums are hardy, popular, blue European or prune-type plums that do not need another tree to cross-pollinate.
- American Hybrid Red plums require a second tree of a specific variety within 100 yards for pollination.
- Each tree needs 125 sq. ft. of space; less for dwarfs.
- Extreme winters or late spring frosts may kill flower buds.
- Plant so graft union is not in contact with soil.
- Stake at planting with a 10' post pounded 2' deep. Loosely tie to tree using a figure 8.
- Train young trees the same as apple trees.
- Many pests contribute to the short lifespan of stone fruits.
 - o Major diseases: brown rot, black knot, many cankers (cause wounds on trunk and branches).
 - o Major insects: borers
 - o Other pests: apple maggot, plum curculio, Japanese beetle, aphids
- Use scare devices or netting if birds peck at or eat fruit.
- Harvest when fruit tastes ripe.
- Prevent rodent damage with trunk guards in winter.



Train branches to 60 degree angles using spreaders or weights for higher yield.

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GRAPES



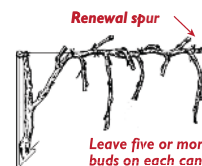
- American grape varieties that ripen by early October are hardy in southern WI. 'Concord' only bears well 2-3 out of every 5 years.
- Some French hybrids are also hardy.
- **Strong support is critical!**
 - o Line posts are uprights, 10'-14' apart per plant.
 - o End posts lean away from the line posts.
 - o Galvanized 9-gauge wire at a height of 6' is stretched between the line posts, then angled downward to the end posts or anchors. Use turnbuckles to adjust tension - tighter in summer, looser in winter.
- At planting, stake one to two branches to grow up to the trellis wire to form the trunk.
- "Single cordon" and "umbrella kniffin" training methods are the simplest.
- Prune out old canes each spring.
 - o For single cordon, leave a few downward ones on each arm with only 5 buds to produce this season's fruiting canes and an equal number of shorter, upward ones to produce next year's canes.
 - o For umbrella kniffin, leave only four long canes.
- To produce larger, sweeter grapes remove all but two flower clusters per cane.
- There are several pests but none are major in home plantings.
- Harvest when the grapes are ripe and fully sweet. They do not ripen further after harvest.



Single cordon



Umbrella kniffin

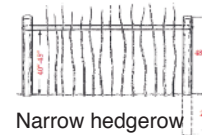
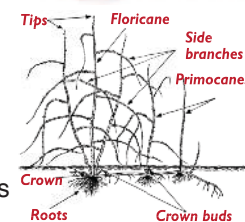


Renewal spur
Leave five or more buds on each cane.

RASPBERRIES



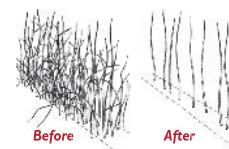
- Red, yellow, purple and sometimes black can be grown in southern WI.
- Roots and crowns live year after year, canes for only two summers.
- Red and yellow raspberries spread if not pruned to keep in rows or hills.
- Black and purple raspberries form clumps instead of spreading.
- Plant in early spring, slightly deeper than they were grown.
- "Narrow hedgerow" planting spaces plants 2-3' apart in rows. Limit rows to 12-15 inches wide. Support may be helpful.
- "Hill" plantings have one plant per hill with 4-5' between hills. Each is only allowed to spread to 1' in diameter. Place a permanent stake in center of hill to tie canes to.
- Prune summer-bearing raspberries after last harvest removing all canes that fruited leaving only 3-4 new canes per foot of row or 6-8 per hill.
- Grow fall-bearing raspberries for one large crop each year. In fall or early spring remove all canes to ground level.
- Pests are usually not serious in home plantings.
- A planting can produce for 12 - 15 years. Old plantings have small, crumbly fruits, stunted plants and low yields.
- Don't plant raspberries in the same area for 2 years.



Narrow hedgerow planting



Hill planting



Before
Summer-bearing red raspberries.
Before and After