

Raspberry

A soft fruit which can be in season for most of the summer. Raspberry is an important commercial fruit which is commonly processed into frozen fruit, puree, juice or dried fruit. Mature bushes can yield several hundred berries a year and have a tendency to spread unless regularly pruned. Thrives best in deep moist soil with plenty of sunshine

Training: Train canes to one side of the wires, leaving the other side free for training the new canes that will grow next season and fruit the following year.

Autumn Pruning: Autumn raspberries fruit on current-season canes, so can be cut back completely after harvest. Regular removal of fruited canes throughout the season can extend fruiting into winter.

Summer Pruning: Summer raspberries fruit on two-year-old canes. Cut back fruited canes to ground level after harvesting.

Do not leave old stubs, and select the strongest young canes, removing the others. Aim for 8-10cm (3-4in) spaces between approximately eight chosen canes per plant.

Suckers between rows should be removed; cut out those near plant bases and dig or hoe out those further away.

Blackcurrant

A soft fruit which ripens from August. A rich source of vitamin C, good levels of iron and vitamin B. Used as juice, and in jellies, syrups and cordials. Flowers are 4-6mm diameter with five reddish-green to brown petals. Produces dark purple black berries. Grows 1m – 2m tall.

Pruning: Prune immediately after fruiting by removing to its base old fruiting wood, this will encourage new young wood.

Tip: Fruit grows on wood made in the previous summer and responds to generous feeding.

Training: initial pruning – grow as stooled bushes (a number of shoots growing from ground level) Plant 2.5cm deeper then cut back all shoots to 2.5cm from soil level.

Pruning: prune lightly for the first three years, removing weak and low lying growth and cutting to at least half the shoots to ground level.

Cropping mature bushes: prune in winter, cutting out one third of the growths annually – old unproductive wood, weak and low growing stems (to stimulate strong growth). Will grow in most soil but resents dry conditions.

Forsythia x Intermedia Spectabilis

Forsythias are reliable, colourful and easy to grow spring-flowering shrubs.

Max Height 3m

Max Spread 1.m

Position soil type.

Plant in sun or partial shade, ideally in moist but well drained soil. For the best blooms, cut branches back to a pair of strong buds just after flowering.

Attracts: **Bees, Beneficial insects, Birds, Butterflies / Moths**

Trees for Years 2024

Your guide to growing and caring for your plants

Trees for Years is a Colchester City Council initiative funded by the Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project.

2024 is the 17th year of Trees for Years which allows residents, Community/Volunteers groups, Schools and Town/Parish Councils to collect free trees and fruit bushes which can be planted on their own land. 10,000 young trees, shrubs and fruit bushes are planted in Colchester City to help promote and create a green and healthy environment to live and work.

Trees for Years 2024 highlights a selection of the most popular trees, shrubs and fruit bushes to promote 'healthy eating and the environment'

Plant Allocation

- 4 plants per household
- Use the new click and collect online order form
- Choose a location, date and time to collect your trees

Trees for Years 2024 is funded by the Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project which is entering its concluding phase, having been launched in 2019.



Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)

Native to England but not found in Scotland or Ireland.

This small to medium tree of rounded form was widely

used in the Middle Ages for making musical

instruments. The tree is suitable for coppicing and for

planting as hedging. It does well in most soils and will

tolerate drought and air pollution.

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

Height max 10 – 15 metres 5-7 metres 10 metres

Special Features Life Expectancy Position/ Soil Type

Excellent autumn colours with leaves

turning yellow, red and golden brown.

50 – 100 years Will do well in virtually any soil type.

Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)

The Silver Birch is also known as the 'Lady of the

Woods' so called because of its slender and graceful

appearance. A medium tree with a conical but semi weeping

habit, the bark is white with horizontal lines

and large diamond shaped cracks as the tree matures

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

Height max 15-20m 3 - 5 metres 8 metres

Special Features Life Expectancy Position/ Soil Type

Yellow drooping catkins in spring,

attractive bark in winter.

60 - 80 years The tree requires well drained soil.

Hazel Cob Nut (*Corylus avellana*)

Native small tree with edible nuts in autumn. Fast

growing and good for hedging. Bees like the early

pollen in February from the yellow catkins. Native tree.

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

Grows to 3-5m in height and can be

coppiced every 3-5yrs.

3-5m if not pruned. Over 25 years. Removal of old

branches will promote new young

growth.

Special Features Life Expectancy Position/ Soil Type

Produces long branches which can be

used as tree stakes. The nuts are 1.5-

2cm long.

Over 25 years. Remove old branches

to promote new young growth.

Will grow in any soil and will thrive in

sun or shade.

Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)

A small deciduous tree with black egg shaped fruit.

Found in woods particularly by the sides of streams

on limestone hills. Natural distribution in N. England,

Wales, Ireland and Scotland. The bittersweet edible

berries are a great favourite with birds.

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

Height max 7.6metres in 20 years 4.6 metres in 20 years 6 metres

Special features Life Expectancy Position/ soil type

Masses of 13cm long spikes of

almond scented white flowers between

May and June

25+ years Well drained soil and will thrive on

quite poor soil in damp

Cornus alba Siberica

Red barked dogwood provides a most effective winter colour if planted as a single specimen in a bed or

planted as a group in a border. The beautiful

variegated foliage makes a great backdrop to set of

other plants. The leaves fall to reveal the stunning

bright red stems which add colour to any garden over

the winter. Remove a third of the stems to ground

level each spring to maintain the colour.

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

Height 2.4 metres 2.4 metres 3 metres

Special features Life Expectancy Position/soil type

Creamy white flowers are produced

May – June followed by white fruits.

Grown for its autumn and winter

coloured stems.

20+ years Will grow in most ground conditions

but does best in heavy clay

Cornus stolonifera 'Flaviramea'

Yellow barked Dogwood with leaves which turn red/ orange in autumn. Small white flowers in June

followed by small white un-edible berries. Green

stems during summer turning a striking yellow over

winter. Remove a third of the stems to ground level

each spring.

**Max Height Max Spread
Min distance to building**

1.8m 2.5m 2m

Special features Life expectancy Position /soil type.

Used as a hedge or individual shrub.

Winter colour.

20+ years if maintained. Will grow in most garden soil types.

Good in wet soil.