

Fruit Talk Jens Schaffner notes

Looking after soft fruit:

Bird protection

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– Pruning:

- To let the sun in
- To let air circulate
- encourage new growth
- Cut out oldest branches of currants and gooseberries in Winter
- Blackcurrants – Prune at harvest time
- Raspberries – cut out fruit canes at ground level after harvest on summer fruiting varieties, with autumn fruiting varieties cut all canes to ground level in February
- Blackberries and Hybrid berries cut out canes which have fruited in autumn

Good Raspberry Varieties:

- Malling Jewel (compact, virus resistant, sweet), Glen Moy
- (early, large fruit, sweet), Glen Ample (vigorous, heavy yield,- large fruit)

Good Blackberry Varieties:

Black Pearl (thorn less), Himalaya Giant
(very vigorous) Black Satin (thorn less)

Good Hybrid Berries:

Logan berry (tart, high yield), Boysenberry (tart vigorous) Tay berry (sweet, choose virus-free Medana strain)

Black & Red Currants:

Good Black Currant Varieties:

Wellington: Vigorous growth ,sweet

Ben More: Moderate growth, tart, late flowering

Ben Sarek: Compact growth, tart

Good Red Currant Varieties:

Laxton's No.1: Vigorous growth, good flavour

Red Lake: Moderate growth, good flavour

Good White Currant Varieties (Birds usually leave these alone):

Blanka: moderate growth, good flavour

Gooseberries:

Invicta heavy yields, virus free, mildew resistant

Achilles good flavour, moderate mildew resistance

A good way to source plants is through swapping with friends and to grow them then from cuttings, it's cheap and fun

Tree Fruit:

Apple Varieties:

**Pollination group A (early): Egremont Russet (E), Irish Peach (E),
Discovery (E), Beauty of Bath (E),**

**Pollination group B (mid): Bramley Seedling (C),Kerry Pippin (E),Cox
Orange Pippin (E), Elstar (E), Katy (E), James Grieve (E),**

Pollination group C (late): White Moss (C), Rawleys Seedling (E)

**Great Links: <http://www.orangeippintrees.eu> go to 'Varieties', then online tools
or go to**

www.irishseedsavers.ie go to 'Shop' then Fruit trees

Pruning Apple Trees:

Most pruning should be carried out in the summer about July – August only heavier pruning like with rejuvenating an old tree ,should be left to the winter, the same applies also to pear, plums and ‘Morello’ cherries. The cherries are best pruned directly after the harvest, by cutting fruit bearing shoots back to a side shoot or shortened by about half.

With apple trees you always try to cut a shoots back to an outward pointing shoot or bud, you normally then leave the remaining shoot uncut as this will encourage it to form fruit buds, but if you cut it back it will grow more.

You can also create new fruit spurs by cutting new shoots coming directly out of a thicker branch back to three leaves in the summer time, this will encourage it to form a few small, shorter shoots then, where fruit buds will develop.

