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FRUIT

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Welcome

Growing fruit is possible even if you don't have a lot of space, especially with the introduction of dwarf rootstocks and training techniques. In this special supplement, free with *Kitchen Garden* magazine, we have some examples of fruit you can grow and top tips on keeping fruit in small spaces. Happy fruit growing!

Emma Rawlings
Deputy Editor



Emma

Contents

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Strawberries | 10 Peaches & nectarines |
| 6 Raspberries | 12 Blueberries |
| 8 Apples & pears | 14 Figs |

Buying fruit

Autumn and winter is a good time to invest in fruit. Most specialist fruit nurseries sell bare-rooted fruit from November to March. These are grown in the ground in the nursery and are lifted while they are dormant. When you receive the plants, if you can't plant properly immediately then it is best to heel them in. This is a technique whereby you temporarily plant by simply making a roughly dug hole and placing the roots in it. Soil is loosely heaped over the roots and water applied. They will be fine for a few days like this until you are ready to plant properly.

Alternatively, container-grown fruit can be planted all year round providing you water the plants well.



Top tip

Once picking has finished, clip over the plants with a pair of shears to remove the leaves. This allows a crop of new leaves to grow and nourish developing flower buds that will produce the following year's crop.

STRAWBERRIES

Perfect fruit for growing in containers such as strawberry pots or growing bags or around the edge of a small veg plot

VARIETIES

There are so many to choose from. Here D.T. Brown have picked three choice ones for you to grow and take advantage of an exclusive reader offer (see bottom of the page).

■ 'MALLING CENTENARY'

This is an early to mid-season variety that was bred to mark the 100th anniversary of the leading East Malling Research Station in Kent. This variety has a superb flavour with uniform and glossy, bright red, conical shaped fruit which is well displayed on the plant, making picking quick and easy. Harvest from early to late June (earlier if grown under cloches).

Buy 12 runners of 'Malling Centenary' for £9.95 (Code 48963)

■ 'ELEGANCE'

A mid season firm favourite, bearing heavy fruited trusses on strong, disease resistant, upright plants. The attractive fruit is bright in colour, has strong skin, firm flesh and a magnificent flavour. Harvest from mid-June to late July.

Buy 12 runners of 'Elegance' for £9.95 (Code 42461)

■ 'MALWINA'

This is probably the latest strawberry worth growing in our home gardens. The large, full of flavour late season fruits are a very bright red and what's more the flesh is very red too – much stronger in colour than many other varieties. 'Malwina' is also resistant to many strawberry diseases. Harvest from mid-July to early August.

Buy 12 runners of 'Malwina' for £9.95 (Code 41775)

D.T. Brown's growing tips

- Choose a sheltered, sunny site to grow your strawberry plants.
- Plant in well-drained, but moisture retentive, humus rich soil. This is best achieved by digging in plenty of well-rotted organic matter, such as farmyard manure or garden compost.
- When planting, it's important to set the crowns just level with the soil surface – no deeper.
- Space at around 37-45cm (15-18in) apart and in rows 82-90cm (33-36in) apart.
- In early June, mulch fruiting rows with straw, tucking it around the plants and under fruiting trusses – this will help to keep the fruit clean and reduces the chances of rotting.



Malling centenary



Elegance



Malwina

READER OFFER

Readers can buy the individual varieties mentioned from D.T. Brown (see prices and codes above) but for great savings buy as a collection.

LONG CROPPING STRAWBERRY COLLECTION

Enjoy picking fresh and delicious strawberries from early June through

to early August with this great collection of the three varieties (shown above). **D.T. Brown is offering 36 runners, 12 each of the above mentioned varieties for £24.85. Saving £5. (Code 41005).**

* To order the individual varieties or the collection simply phone 0845 3710532 quoting *Kitchen Garden* and the relevant order code.

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BUY BOTH STRAWBERRY AND RASPBERRY COLLECTIONS

Buy both the Long Cropping Strawberry Collection and Long Cropping Raspberry Collection (see pages 6 and 7) and **SAVE £10!** When ordering please use the promotional code **D16KG1** in the shopping basket to receive the discount (normal P&P charges apply). www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk/D16KG1

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Top tip

Apply a thick mulch of organic matter early in the spring each year while the ground is still moist from winter rains. This will help to improve soil structure, drainage qualities and its ability to hold nutrients in the root zone.

RASPBERRIES

This fruit is often grown in long rows with wire supports but raspberries can be grown in large pots, especially autumn fruiting raspberries which don't need quite so much support

VARIETIES

■ 'MALLING MINERVA'

(Early season florican) Now considered the best early season variety available, this easy-picking, spine-free raspberry produces a huge crop of delicious, succulent, well-shaped berries which pull easily from the plant. It is a florican type meaning it produces stems one year and these bear fruit the next. Bred by East Malling Research, Malling Minerva will fruit from early June for up to six weeks, yielding up to 3.6kgs per cane in trials. Very disease and virus resistant. Harvest early June to early July.

Buy 6 canes, £10.95 (Code 42171)

■ 'GLEN FYNE'

(Mid season florican) Bred at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Glen Fyne is an excellent raspberry tipped to be the next garden favourite. One of the tastiest raspberries we have ever eaten, it has a sweet and richly

aromatic flavour. The bright red fruits are firm and slightly conical in shape and the canes are moderately vigorous and have the advantage of being spine-free. Harvest July to early August.

Buy 6 canes, £10.95 (Code 41330)

■ 'POLKA'

(Late season primocane) A multi-award winner at the National Fruit Show, 'Polka' has exceptional fruit quality and the large, medium-red berries are full of fragrant, zesty flavour. 'Polka' is an autumn fruiting raspberry or a primocane type. This means that the stems it produces bear fruit in the same year as they have grown. It is bred in Poland with 'Autumn Bliss' as one of its parents. The virtually spine-free 'Polka' will yield double the crop of 'Autumn Bliss' and crop for up to two weeks earlier. Even grows well on less desirable soils. Thoroughly recommended by the D.T. Brown team! Harvest from August to October.

Buy 6 canes, £12.95 (Code 40529)

D.T. Brown's growing tips

■ Raspberries will thrive in a bright and sunny spot which is sheltered from cold, drying winds.

■ Plant in soil rich in organic matter and one that is free draining.

■ Plant canes with the uppermost roots no more than 5cm (2in) below the soil (deeper planting will discourage plants from producing new canes in the first season).

■ At planting time rake in a dressing of Growmore or fish, blood and bone to give the plants a boost in their first season.

■ Space at 40cm (16in) between each cane and in rows 1.8m (6ft) apart.

■ Each row should run north to south to catch maximum sunlight and ideally be supported on a system of posts and wires to around 1.8m (6ft) in height.

Strain wires horizontally between the posts at 60cm (2ft) intervals, starting with the first wire at about 45cm (18in) from the ground and rising to the last wire at around 1.7m (5½ ft.) high.



Malling Minerva



Glen Fyne



Polka

READER OFFER

Readers can buy the individual varieties (see prices and codes above) but for great savings buy as a collection.

LONG CROPPING RASPBERRY COLLECTION

Harvest sweet berries from early June through to October with this

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* To order the individual varieties or the collection simply phone 0845 3710532 quoting *Kitchen Garden* and the relevant order code.

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Top tip

There are dozens of varieties of both apples and pears available and the choice can be daunting. The best way to tell if you like one is to taste it and fortunately in the autumn there are lots of tasting days which allow you to do just that. See the Diary Dates pages of KG for details.

APPLES & PEARS

Easy to grow and delicious, every garden should have some and the great news is that there are trees suitable for the smallest plots

Many more compact trees are being offered now as new rootstocks and pruning techniques have been developed.

CHOOSE YOUR ROOTSTOCK

Apple and pear trees consist of a rootstock – the lower bit that determines how vigorous the tree will be and its mature size – and the scion, the upper part which consists of the variety itself. The type of rootstock largely dictates the mature size of your tree, so it is important to choose the right one. For a small apple tree for any garden or to make into a cordon (a single straight stem grown up a wall or fence) the rootstocks M26 and M27 dwarfing and extreme dwarfing rootstocks are the most commonly used for small bush trees and cordons. You may also be offered M9 by some suppliers and this is also ideal.

The selection for pears is more limited and the semi-dwarfing rootstock Quince A is the one you are likely to be offered.

POLLINATION PARTNERS

Some pears, such as favourites 'Conference', 'Concorde' and 'Red Williams' are self-fertile. However, they will often fruit more prolifically when grown with another tree that flowers at the same time to aid

pollination. Some apples, too, will produce a crop without a pollinator such as 'Spartan', 'Howgate Wonder' and 'Lane's Prince Albert', but again they will fruit more reliably in the presence of a partner. Check with your supplier at the time of purchase.

PLANT IN THE GROUND

Choose a sunny, sheltered spot with well drained and reasonably fertile soil. Trained trees such as cordons, espaliers and fans can be planted against a south or west-facing wall, but avoid the base of a slope where cold air might collect at flowering time. Plant your tree so that the knobby graft union is at least 10cm (4in) above the soil and stake your tree firmly.

GROW IN POTS

The larger the pot, the better and a minimum size of 60cm (2ft) is recommended – make sure it has plenty of drainage holes in the base. Fill with a heavy compost, such as John Innes no 3. You will also need to stake the tree with a stout cane at planting time.

Replacing the top 2.5cm (1in) of compost each year will help to revitalise the tree.

Water regularly during the summer months and feed with a liquid tomato fertiliser once a month from April to September.

YOUNG TREE OR PART TRAINED?

Apples and pears grow more quickly than many people imagine and within three to four years of purchasing a one-year-old tree you should be picking a reasonable crop. However training does take time and some know-how and to speed up the process for a little more money you can purchase a part-trained bush, fan or step-over tree. This is well worth the investment if you lack the confidence or time to do it yourself. However, if you are up for the challenge, save some money and do it yourself.



PRUNING

Check the pages of KG for seasonal advice. On established cordon trees prune at the end of July to the end of August once new growth reaches around 20cm (8in) long, cutting back any long growths arising from the fruiting spurs (short fruiting branches) to a bud above the basal cluster of leaves that encircle the shoot. This will encourage more fruit buds. Any growths arising from the main trunk are cut back to three buds.

On established bush trees leave well-placed new shoots



required to form new branches unpruned, cutting back the rest to one bud as above. In winter remove dead, damaged and diseased wood and any misplaced branches or those growing into the centre of the tree.



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Blackcurrant , Big Ben	£9.99	Loganberry , Thornless LY654	£9.99
Blueberry , Bluecrop, Earliblue, Herbert, Patriot	£4.99	Raspberries - Autumn Bliss, Glen Ample, Glen Lyon, Malling Jewel. Pack of 5 canes	£7.49
Blueberry Sunshine Blue	£5.99	All Gold, Cascade Delight, Octavia or Polka. Pack of 5 canes	£8.99
Boysenberry , Thornless	£9.99	Buy any 3 or more packs, deduct £1.00 per pack.	
Fig Brown Turkey	£11.95	Raspberry Ruby Beauty (1 pot grown plant)	£9.99
Gooseberries - Captivator, Hinnomaki Red, Green and Yellow, Invicta, Jubilee	£5.99	Redcurrants , Red Lake, Redstart, Rovada	£4.99
Grapevine , Boskoop Glory	£7.99	Rhubarb , Glaskin's Perpetual	£6.99
Grapevine , Phoenix	£11.95	Rhubarb , Red Champagne	£6.99
Jostaberry	£5.99	Tayberry , Buckingham	£11.95
		Whitecurrant , White Versailles	£4.99

Maiden Fruit Trees and Rootstocks

Apples - Arthur Turner, Ashmead's Kernel, Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Braeburn, Bramley's Seedling, Bramley's Seedling Clone 20, Charles Ross, Christmas Pippin, Cobra, Cox's Self-Fertile, Discovery, Egremont Russet, Ellison's Orange, Fiesta (Red Pippin), Golden Delicious, Herefordshire Russet, Howgate Wonder, James Grieve, Katy, Kidd's Orange Red, Laxton's Superb, Red Falstaff, Red Windsor (Red Alkmene), Rosette, Royal Gala, Scrumptious, Sunset, Tom Putt, Winter Gem or Worcester Pearmain. Cider apples are also available.

Pears Beth, Concorde, Conference, Doyenne du Comice, Invincible, Sensation, William's Bon Chrétien.

All Varieties of Apples and Pears £14.95 each, or buy 3 or more apples or pears of your choice £13.45 each

Apricot - Tomcot - £19.95	Black Mulberry - £16.95
Cherries - Morello, Stella, Summer Sun, Sunburst £15.95 colt rootstock, £19.95 Giesla 5 rootstock.	White Mulberry - £4.99
Medlar - Nottingham - £15.95	
Plums - Avalon, Czar, Early Transparent Gage, Excalibur, Farleigh Damson, Marjorie's Seedling, Merryweather Damson, Old Greengage, Opal, Oullins Golden Gage, Shropshire Damson (Prune), Victoria - £16.95 each.	
Plum - Jubilee - £18.95 each	Quince - Champion or Vranja - £15.95
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Top tip

If the tree produces a lot of fruit it is worth removing a few fruits while they are still small to help the remaining ones reach a good size.

PEACHES & NECTARINES

These are really pretty trees with glorious pink blossom in early spring with the fruit almost a bonus. There are some wonderful varieties available for growing in containers on the patio

WHERE TO GROW

A sunny patio is ideal and, if possible, move to a sheltered part of the garden or a cold greenhouse in winter. It is in early spring when the tree is most susceptible to frost. This is when the blossom opens. Cover with fleece or move into a greenhouse overnight and in the day place it outside to allow the flowers to be pollinated.



Top tip

Pollinators may not be around in large numbers so it helps to dab the open flowers with a small paintbrush to transfer pollen from flower to flower.



VARIETIES

■ PEACH 'CRIMSON BONFIRE':

A stunning purple-leaved tree with pink blossom. Pretty just as an ornamental tree but it will produce dark red peaches. Reaches a height of only about 1.2m (4ft) after 10 years.

■ PEACH 'BONANZA':

A very slow growing variety ideal for containers. Pretty pink blossom appears in spring followed by long green leaves.

■ NECTARINE

'NECTARELLA': Reaches a height of about 1.2m (4-5ft) after about 10 years. Can produce up to 10lb of fruit after three to four years.



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PLANTING IN POTS

Choose a container at least 45cm (18in) in diameter filled with John Innes no 3 compost.

CARE

In spring apply a couple of inches of fresh compost mixed with a handful of controlled release fertiliser to the top of the pot. A liquid feed of a high potash fertiliser (tomato feed) every couple of weeks in the summer is beneficial. Don't let the containers dry out at all during summer.

HARVESTING

When the fruits start to colour up and the fruit softens, particularly near the stalk, cup the fruit in your hand and lift. If it is ready to be picked it will come away easily.





Top tip

Although most blueberry bushes are self-fertile, if you have a couple of other varieties nearby, cross-pollination will result in greater yields.

BLUEBERRIES

Blueberries are highly regarded as a superfood, high in antioxidants and Vitamin C. They do really well in containers where they will produce quite happily year on year providing they are watered and fed appropriately. What's more, the autumn foliage of blueberry bushes makes for a spectacular display.

WHAT YOU NEED

Although you can plant young blueberry bushes in 30cm (12in) diameter pots initially, as they mature you will need to move them up to 50cm (20in) diameter ones to give them the right amount of root space. Put some crocks or gravel in the bottom of your container before adding compost. Make sure you use ericaceous compost as this is acidic, and blueberries love acidic soil. Place your container where it is sheltered a little from the wind and in a sunny spot.



AFTERCARE

Blueberries don't need a lot of looking after. It is important, as with most container growing, not to let the plant dry out so water regularly, and more so in dry weather. Always use rain water rather than tap water as the former is more acidic. You can also add a mulch of pine needles or leafmould to help retain moisture. Feed the bush monthly during the growing season using ericaceous (lime-free) fertiliser rather than a general fertiliser. As the fruit develops, it's a good

idea to cover your blueberry bush with bird netting as birds will help themselves if not kept out.

WINTER CARE

It is beneficial to provide some protection from the cold during the winter by wrapping the pots in hessian sacks, fleece or bubble wrap. Some pruning can be done with mature plants at this time, removing a few of the more dominant shoots and about half of the weaker ones. After about three years, repot your blueberry bush using fresh ericaceous compost.



VARIETIES

■ **'DUKE' AGM:** This is recommended for northern climes as it flowers late and fruits early. Crops well, with medium to large, light-blue berries.

■ **'GOLD TRAUBE':** An attractive variety producing medium-large berries, and spectacular red foliage in the autumn.

■ **'PINK LEMONADE':** Blueberries which are actually pink, so a novel and decorative alternative to the traditional blue.

HARVESTING

Blueberries ripen July to September, with individual berries ripening at different stages, so pick regularly. And if you're lucky enough to have a glut, great for preserves, smoothies, or pop them in the freezer for another time. Blueberries start to fruit in their second or third year, so you may need to be a little patient. Picking off the flowers in the first year will result in a better crop the following year.



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FIGS

Although usually making a large tree the fig can be grown in containers or trained against a south-facing wall, making it a suitable fruit for a small space

WHERE TO GROW

Initially small plants can be grown in a 30cm (12in) diameter pot but once they outgrow this size move into a large container about 60cm (24in) diameter and deep. This size pot or smaller could be moved to a sheltered part of the garden in winter or even placed in a shed or greenhouse. Some varieties are quite hardy and once mature tend to be even more hardy and may survive the winter if the site is not too exposed. Use a John Innes no 3 compost for potting up figs.

If you have a south-facing wall and wish to train a fig against it in a fan shape consider keeping the tree more compact by controlling the root growth. This is done by

digging a large square planting hole and lining the sides with paving slabs and the base with large stones or hardcore. Backfill the hole with soil and some garden compost and grit for drainage.

CARE OF FIGS

Pot-grown figs will benefit from controlled-release fertiliser applied in spring with a top dressing of fresh compost. A liquid feed every two or three weeks in summer may also be beneficial. Figs require plenty of water once the fruits start to swell from early summer.

Top tip

Keep growth compact on fan-trained plants by pinching the tips from half of the shoots in June. In November cut back half of the fruited branches down to 2.5cm (1in) long. This will keep the balance between fruit and growth.

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Figs and Blueberries

Figs need plenty of sun and warmth to grow and crop well outdoors in Britain. They can be grown outdoors in the south and west but further north need a very warm, sheltered position outdoors, otherwise they must be grown under glass. Root restriction should be provided to keep the tree compact and fruitful.

Price of Figs ~~£17.75~~ **£15.98**

Please add £8.95 p&p to your total order to UK Mainland only, please call for p&p charges to off-shore islands and Scottish Highlands.

Blueberries can be a tasty and attractive addition to the garden. In the autumn the bushes turn to blazing crimson. In the spring the bushes are covered in masses of sweet scented bell shaped flowers. They grow just as well as other fruits in the U.K. if they are given the special acid conditions they require. **If you do not have the right soil, then why not grow blueberries in containers?** Two varieties should be planted to improve pollination.

Price of Blueberries ~~£13.50~~ **£12.15**

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VARIETIES

■ **'BROWN TURKEY'**: A popular variety suitable for containers and growing in the ground as it is quite a hardy fig.

■ **'TENA'**: A good variety for pots or in the garden. Ripens late August in southern UK.

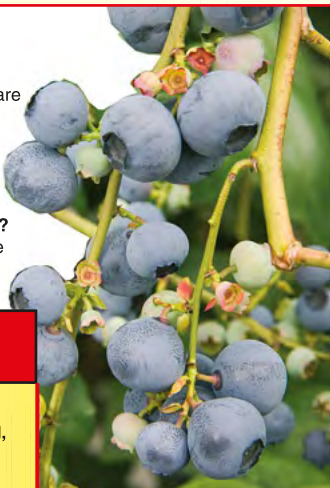
■ **'PETITE NEGRI'**: A smaller compact fig, perfect for container growing or a small garden. Small to medium-sized black figs produced about mid-September. Protect from freezing weather in winter.

HARVESTING

Late summer into autumn is the time when figs usually mature. When the stalks of the fruit bend and the fruit hangs down and is quite soft it is time to pick. Look for a drop of sugary solution at the base of the fruit too. It may be a good idea to net the figs some time before ripening to prevent birds feasting on them.

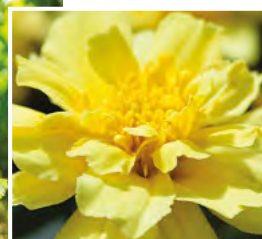
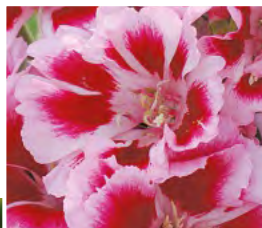
AUTUMN CARE

In late autumn remove any figs larger than pea size. These will not develop and may rot. If you have a small fig in a pot it is best to move the pot to a sheltered part of the garden or into a greenhouse or shed before the first frosts. The base of figs growing in the ground can be protected with straw and fleece in winter.





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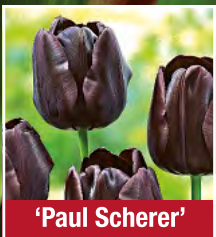


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Bakker Spalding Garden Company, P.O. Box 113, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 9WL.



Bakker Spalding Garden Company, Company Registration 02366169, located at Four Seasons House, Enterprise Way, Pinchbeck, Spalding, PE11 3YR.
*Calls are £0.07p per minute.

Post to: Bakker Spalding Garden Company, Company P.O. Box 113, SPALDING, Lincolnshire, PE11 9WL

Cat. No.	Description	Price	Packs	Total
6198-75	'Ice Cream' (pack of 8 tulip bulbs)	£9.99		
6600-96	'Rembrandt' (pack of 15 tulip bulbs)	£8.75		
6601-43	'Paul Scherer' (pack of 12 tulip bulbs)	£7.95		
6601-35	'Paradise' - Mixed (pack of 15 tulip bulbs)	£7.99		
6878-86	Pruning Shears** <small>**Only available with bulb order.</small>	£4.99		
Iron pump waterwell + 70 Spring Bulbs				FREE
Please add Post & Packaging				£5.29

(We may supply alternative varieties and gifts where necessary)
ONLY ONE FREE GIFT PER ORDER
Bulbs will be despatched to you at the best time for planting.

Card No: Please debit my: VISA MasterCard DELTA

Expiry date: ___/___/___ Security code: ___/___/___ Last 3 digits on back of card

Credit or Debit cards - your card will not be charged until your goods are despatched.

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to **Bakker Spalding Garden Co:** £

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address:

Postcode: Tel:

Mobile: Email:

Please tick this box if you do not wish us to pass on your details to other companies who may have offers of interest to you. | Please note we are unable to deliver to the Channel Islands **FJ**

WITH 70 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF SUPPLYING DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC, WE ARE THE UK'S MAIL ORDER GARDEN SPECIALIST.