

Planting Soft Fruit

Plant soft fruit in early spring to enjoy a crop of raspberries, currants and gooseberries in the summer.

What you need:

- Soft fruit plants
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Trowels and spades
- Gloves
- Watering cans



What to do:

1. Use a trowel or spade to dig a hole for the first plant. Ensure the hole is of a sufficient size for the plant's roots.
2. Use a measuring tape or ruler to measure the distance to the next planting space and dig the next hole. Continue until you have a sufficient number of holes for the plants.
3. Carefully place one fruit plant into each hole. Backfill the holes with soil.
4. The crown of the fruit plant should be just above the soil, with the exception of blackcurrants. Their crowns should be 5cm below ground.
5. Prune raspberries, currants and gooseberries hard back. This will encourage new growth.
6. Water the plants in.

Ways to extend this activity: Find recipes that use the fruits you have planted, ready for when you harvest them. Research how the fruits form and take photos of this process as the plants grow. Leave one plant unpruned and compare the harvest from this plant with that of the other plants.

National Curriculum Links: Describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature. Explore the requirements of plants for growth. Identify and describe the different parts of plants. Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants. Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants.