



Gooseberry - Planting and Care

Mini-brochure - Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

- Choose variety: thornless or low-thorn for easy picking; green/red/yellow types vary in flavor and ripening time.
- Site: full sun to light shade; good airflow to reduce mildew.
- Soil: fertile, well-drained loam; slightly acidic to neutral; add compost before planting.
- Form: open-centered bush for most gardens; cordon or fan for small spaces.
- Spacing: match vigor and training form for easy harvest and airflow.

Planting - spacing and steps

Spacing	1.2 to 1.5 m between bushes; rows 1.8 to 2.4 m. For cordons/fans follow post and wire spacing.
Depth	Plant at the same depth as in the nursery pot; spread roots outward and firm gently.
Mulch	Mulch 5 to 8 cm to hold moisture and suppress weeds; keep away from stems.
Water	Deeply after planting; keep evenly moist in year 1.

Watering and feeding

Water	About 2.5 to 4 cm per week during growth and fruiting; mulch helps retain moisture.
Feeding	In early spring apply a balanced fertilizer per label, or top-dress with compost.

Article: cveti-doma.ru/en/gooseberry-planting-and-care/

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Pruning and training

Form	Open-centered bush with 8 to 12 main branches, or cordon/fan on wires for compact spaces.
Fruiting wood	Berries form on short spurs on 1 to 3 year wood. Retain a mix of young and mid-age shoots; renew oldest wood gradually.
Winter pruning	While dormant, remove crossing, low, and congested shoots. Shorten lateral shoots to 4 to 6 buds to encourage spurs.
Summer pinch	Lightly tip vigorous new laterals to improve airflow and light, especially in dense bushes.

Pests and diseases - quick view

Common issues	Gooseberry sawfly larvae (defoliation), aphids; powdery mildew, leaf spot.
Prevention	Airy, sunny site; prune for airflow; mulch; water in mornings; clear fallen leaves.
Action	Inspect regularly; hand-pick sawfly larvae or use biological controls where allowed; remove mildewed shoots and infected leaves.

Seasonal calendar

Spring	Plant or transplant; feed; mulch; train new shoots; monitor early pests.
Summer	Water steadily; thin congested shoots; harvest when berries are full size and softening.
Autumn	Top up mulch; remove dead/diseased wood; tidy for winter.
Winter	Structural pruning; shorten laterals; remove oldest unproductive stems.

Propagation

Hardwood cuttings	Take pencil-thick cuttings 20 to 25 cm in late autumn or winter. Insert two-thirds deep in a nursery bed; transplant next year.
Layering	Bend a low flexible shoot to the ground, peg and cover a section with soil; once rooted, separate and transplant.

Bush plan worksheet

Variety	Form and spacing	Mulch plan	Pruning notes	Action date

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