



Irga (Serviceberry) - Planting and Care

Plant memo - Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

Type	Deciduous shrub or small tree; edible berries; early spring bloom
Light	Full sun to light shade; more sun = better fruit set
Soil	Well-drained loam; pH slightly acidic to neutral; avoid waterlogged sites
Water	Keep evenly moist in first 1 to 2 years; established plants are fairly drought-tolerant
Hardiness	Cold-hardy in many temperate regions; check local zone fit
Spacing	Shrub forms 1.5 to 2.5 m apart; tree forms 3 to 4 m

Planting - step by step

1. Site and hole	Choose a sunny, well-drained spot. Dig a hole about 2 times wider than the rootball and the same depth.
2. Prepare soil	Mix native soil with a little compost for structure; avoid heavy, soggy mixes.
3. Planting depth	Set at the same depth as in the nursery pot. Spread roots outward; do not bury the trunk flare.
4. Backfill and water	Backfill gently, water to settle soil, then top up. Create a shallow watering ring.
5. Mulch	Mulch 5 to 8 cm with wood chips or bark, keeping 5 cm away from stems.
6. Stake if needed	Stake young tree forms in windy sites for the first season.

Watering and feeding

Year 1	Keep root zone evenly moist. Deep water once or twice per week, depending on heat and soil.
Years 2+	Water during dry spells. Mulch helps retain moisture.
Feeding	In early spring, apply a balanced slow-release fertilizer at label rate, or top-dress with compost.

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Pruning and training

Form	Shrub with multiple stems or a single-stem small tree. Remove weak, crossing, or damaged branches.
Timing	Light shaping after flowering or in late winter while dormant.
Renewal	Every few years, remove 1 to 3 of the oldest stems at ground level to encourage new shoots.

Pests and diseases

Common issues	Aphids, sawfly larvae, leaf spot, powdery mildew, fire blight in some regions.
Prevention	Choose sunny, airy sites; avoid overhead watering; prune for airflow; clean up fallen leaves.
Action	Rinse small pests with water; use insecticidal soap if needed. For disease, remove affected parts and improve airflow.

Seasonal calendar

Spring	Plant or transplant; feed lightly; mulch; prune after bloom if shaping is needed.
Summer	Water during dry spells; monitor pests; harvest berries when fully colored and soft.
Autumn	Top up mulch; remove fallen leaves; light shaping if required.
Winter	Prune while dormant for structure; protect young stems from rabbits or deer if present.

Planting worksheet

Site notes	Plant variety/form	Pot size or spacing	Soil/compost mix	Action date

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