

Schoolyard Gardens Fruit Varieties and Maintenance Requirements



*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON FRUIT PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE PLEASE VISIT [THE GIVING GROVE RESOURCE SITE](#)

BERRY PLANTS

Eversweet Strawberry - Ever-bearing strawberry that is heat tolerant and produces berries spring through fall. Disease resistant. Needs well-draining soil.

- **Ripens** - Late May, July, September.
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Prune back runners in the second year as needed. Replace strawberry plants every 3-4 years.

Caroline Raspberry - Very productive and hardy with good flavor and berry size. Needs well-draining soil!

- **Ripens** - Starts bearing fruit in August and continues until first hard freeze.
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Cut down to 2" above ground in late fall or late winter.

Natchez Thornless Blackberry (needs trellis)- Large berries with excellent flavor. The earliest blackberry! Needs well-drained soil!

- **Ripens** - Starts bearing fruit in mid-June.
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Tip prune and tie first year canes June-September. Tip laterals to 12-15" of second year canes in early March. Remove old canes to the crown once done fruiting.

CHERRY

Carmine Jewel Bush Cherry (self-fertile)- A 6-7' tall shrub with tart cherry perfect for food production and the edible landscape.

- **Ripens** - Starts in early June and gets slightly sweeter throughout the month
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Thin out crowded stems, 5 years and older stems can be removed to make room for younger trunks. Produces fruit in year 3.

PEACH

Contender Peach (self-fertile)- Sweet and delicious, large freestone fruit good for fresh use, freezing or for pies. Good resistance to bacterial spot.

- **Ripens** - Late July.
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Prune last in dormant season. Remove up to 50% each year. Thin twigs under 12" and crowding twigs. Proper fruit twigs are 12-18" & pencil thick. Open center form. Pinch all fruit in years 1 & 2. Thin fruit to 8" apart at 3 years & beyond.

ASIAN PEAR

*Asian Pears need a pollinizer meaning they'll need another Asian Pear tree of a different variety to produce fruit

Yoinashi Asian Pear - This round brown skinned fruit is crisp and juicy with an outstanding butterscotch flavor. Very productive with uniform branching.

- **Ripens** - Starts in mid-late August.

Shinko Asian Pear - Distinctive rich, sweet flavor. Fruit is very productive and medium to large size. Attractive golden russet skin and firm, crisp flesh.

- **Ripens** - Starts in early September.

***Pruning/Thinning** (both varieties) - Central leader or modified central leader form. Spreading branches is necessary. Pinch all fruit in years 1 and 2. Thin fruit to 5" apart at 3 years and beyond.

EUROPEAN PEAR

Warren European Pear (self-fertile)- Large light green fruits with a uniform growth habit. 4-6 years before fruit production.

- **Ripens** - Late August to early September.
- **Pruning/Thinning** - Central leader or modified central leader form. Spreading branches is necessary. Lateral branches are equally spaced around the trunk with 6-8" between. Pinch all fruits in years 1 & 2. Thin fruit to 5" apart at years 3 and beyond

APPLE

*Apples need a pollinizer meaning they'll need another apple tree of a different variety to produce fruit.

Liberty Apple - A red crisp and tart variety that is dependable and highly productive.

- **Ripens** - In mid-September.

Enterprise Apple - A glossy red apple with an excellent flavor that improves with storage.

- **Ripens** - In September/October.

***Pruning/Thinning** (both varieties) - Modified central to central leader form works for most. Work on scaffolds (tiers).

Spreading/bending branches is recommended. Pinch all fruits in years 1 & 2. Thin fruit to 5" apart at 3 years and beyond.

A NOTE FOR ALL FRUIT TREES: IN GENERAL, BRANCHING ON TREES SHOULD START AT OR ABOVE 3 FEET. PRUNE IN FEBRUARY AND AUGUST. FERTILIZE IN FEBRUARY.

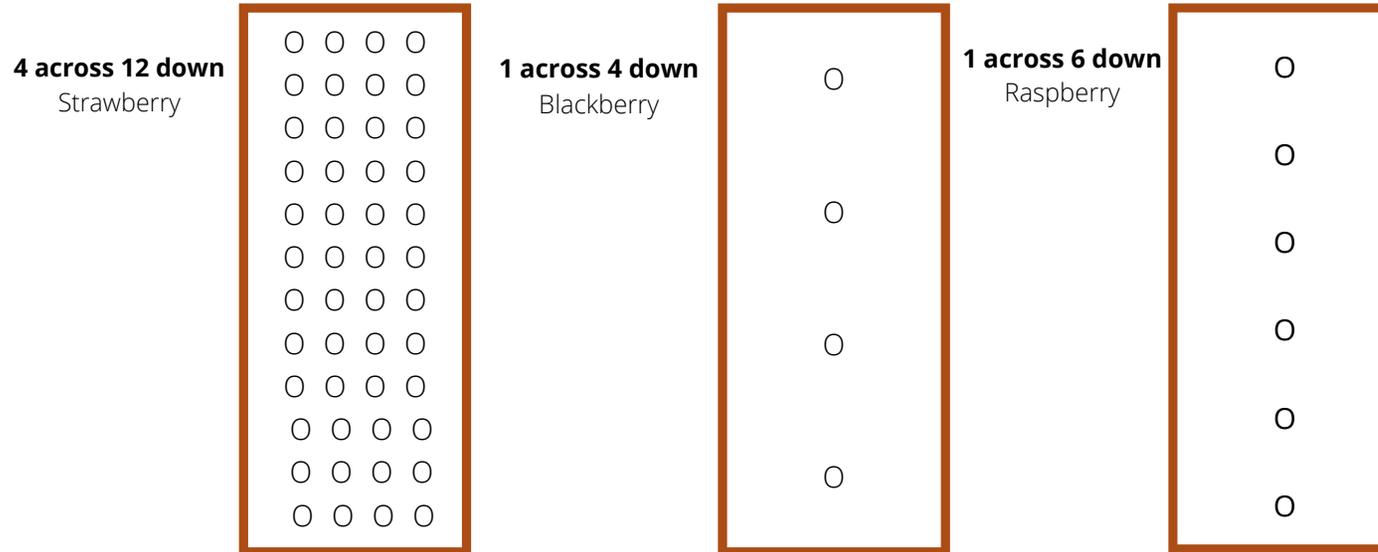
Schoolyard Gardens Fruit Planting Tips



RECOMMENDED FRUIT CONDITIONS:

- **Sun Access** – Full sun (8+ hours per day)
- **Air Movement** – Light wind keeps disease at bay and deters frost. Slight slopes encourage air movement
- **Soil** – Recommend good drainage and good soil fertility

K-12 SCHOOLS



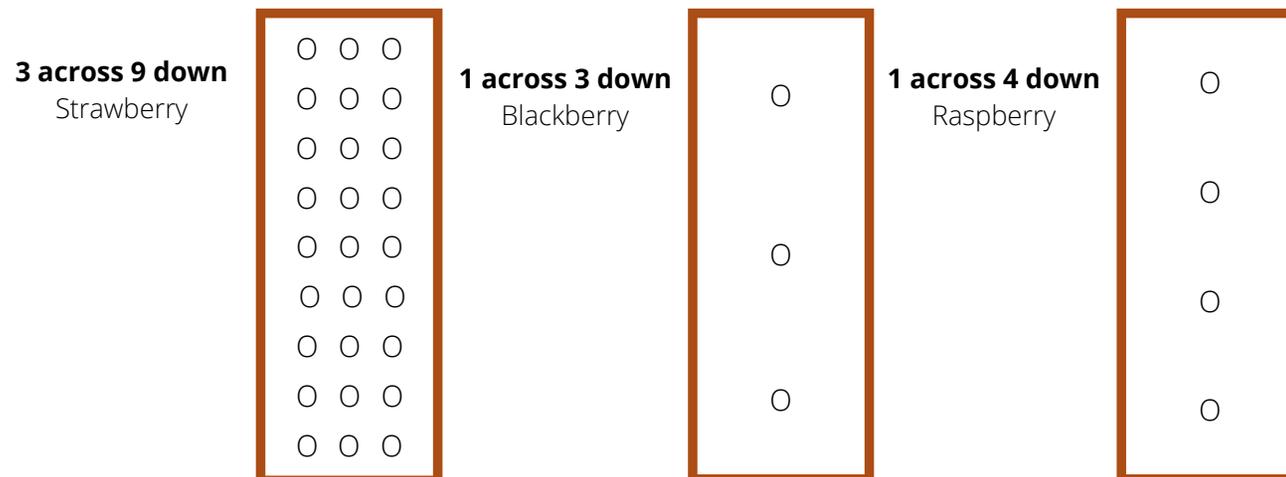
*FRUIT TREES

For information on fruit trees, please see the reverse page for variety descriptions and maintenance requirements.

*ASPARAGUS

Not offered every year. Only produces harvest after being established for 3 years. Contact SYG coordinator for further information.

PRESCHOOLS



ORDER QUANTITIES

K-12 QUANTITIES

- Strawberries - 5 bundles
- Blackberries - 4 plants
- Raspberries - 6 plants

PRESCHOOL QUANTITIES

- Strawberries - 3 bundles
- Blackberries - 3 plants
- Raspberries - 4 plants