

Ison's Nursery & Vineyard

Planting Instructions

Goumi Berry Planting Instructions



Information

Goumi berries make a lovely bush in your yard. They can grow to heights of 8-10'. It is a fast-growing bush. They are useful being planted with other fruit bushes as goumi berries are a nitrogen fixer.

Goumi berries produce lightly fragrant flowers in April to May, followed by juicy, bright red berries in early summer, during the gap-time between strawberries and blackberries.

You can expect about 25 pounds of fruit from each goumi bush. It takes 4 years to reach full production, but they will start producing fruit in the 2nd year.

The berries are juicy and somewhat tart when picked at the peak of perfection. If eaten unripe or over ripe they taste terrible. As there is only a short window of opportunity for harvesting these berries some growers leave a lot for the birds, but the more frugal gardener preserves them in pastries, pies, jelly and jam, fruit leathers and so on. The berries are not true berries they are stone fruits much like a cherry. It has a single central pit which is also edible.

Planting Information

Goumi berries will tolerate drought and even harsh environments and soils. They are also not very particular as far as soil goes and will grow in most soil types. They are also drought tolerant. They are relatively free from disease and pests as well.

Plant berries 8-10' apart in full sun but they will tolerate partial shade. Plant in well-drained soil.

Apply one application of 4 ounces of 10-10-10 around mid-April. Place the fertilizer about 10-12 inches away from the plant in a complete circle.

When watering Goumi bushes make sure to lightly soak the soil and then do not water again until the top two inches are dry.

Goumi berries are best harvested by shaking the shrub and collecting the berries on a sheet below. This can be hard on the plant, however, and you need to be careful not to damage the tender young shoots. It helps to harvest the berries when they are at their ripest – they should be a deep scarlet color and not as acidic in flavor.



