



HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY

Site planning

Highbush cranberry produce best when planted full sun in well-drained soil with organic matter. The ideal soil PH is 6 - 7.5. If not pruned back it can reach heights of 12' and up to 10' wide.

Planting

Dig a hole twice the size of the pot and loosen up as much soil as you can around the hole. As you fill in around the root ball be sure to pat the soil down to remove any air pockets. DON'T add fertilizer to the hole as you can burn the roots. Ensure the soil level at the top of the pot is level with the ground - don't bury the trunk deeper than it was in the pot! Water well. Mulching the ground around the tree helps maintain moisture in the soil and cuts down on competition from weeds. DON'T put the mulch right up against the trunk of the tree - keep it out a few inches.

Pruning

Best done when dormant in late winter. Cut out dead and damage branches first as well as any branches crossing each other. Prune out older shots at the base to promote new growth and maintain shrub size.

Harvesting

The berries begin to turn red in late August-at this stage they taste the most like "true" bog cranberries. Although the fruit can be harvested until early November they tend to shrink with evaporation. Often the birds will consume them as they get softer and their other sources of food become more scarce.