

Planting and Care of Goji Berry Plants

Goji berries are often referred to as the “Superfruit” and are known for their high levels of vitamins and minerals. Goji berries are very hardy and can easily be grown in your garden or as a shrub in the landscape. With proper winter protection, plants can also be grown in containers as patio plants. In fall and winter, plants are shipped dormant and will soon grow new leaves in spring outdoors or in several weeks if grown indoors.

Growing Goji Berries in the Garden or Landscape

Site Selection

Goji berry plants are very hardy and easy to grow. Young plants can be planted directly into the landscape or planted in the garden or pot for one to two years then moved to the permanent location. Plants thrive in full sun in moist well-drained soil with a pH of 6.8 to 8.0. In hot sunny climates, plant in sites that provide afternoon shade.

Soil Preparation

Goji berry plants prefer alkaline soils. In areas with acid soil, add lime to the soil to increase the soil pH to between 6.5 – 8.0. Follow the instructions on the garden lime label for the correct amount of lime to apply to the soil.

Planting

Your Goji berry plants are ready to plant directly into the garden or landscape. Plant a minimum of five feet apart. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system. Remove the pot; lightly roughen the root system to spread the surface roots. Place the root system in the hole and adjust the planting depth to be the same as the top of the pot. Backfill the soil and firm the soil around the root system. Water thoroughly after planting. It is helpful to apply a surface mulch of bark mulch, sawdust or other material 2 to 4 inches deep around the plant to help maintain uniform soil moisture and good soil structure. Water twice weekly until the plants are established and then water as needed. Goji berry plants are relatively drought tolerant and are easy to grow once established.

Care of Plants

Goji berry require very little care and will often produce fruit the second year. A light application of an all purpose fertilizer in spring will provide the nutrition for the plants throughout the growing season.

Pruning

Goji berry plants are carefree plants but will benefit from yearly pruning. The first year after planting allow plants to grow removing only broken or weak branches. Goji berry plants are grown for fruit and need a strong open structure to produce high quality fruit. Pruning is best done when the plants are dormant in late fall or early spring. Each year remove lower branches that may lay on the ground. Thin branches to keep the plant open to sunlight and maintain a strong shape for maximum berry production.

Growing Goji Berry Plants in Containers

Goji berry plants make great patio plants outdoors and can also be grown as an indoor plant.

Goji berry plants were grown in the container you receive and are ready to be planted into a larger container. Any container six inches or greater will provide adequate room for roots to grow. Decorative containers need to have drainage holes in the bottom. Fill container with a good quality potting soil made for container gardening. Remove the plant from the pot and slightly roughen roots. Place the plant in the pot and firm the soil around the roots. Water thoroughly until water comes out of the bottom of the pot. Check for water twice weekly and more often during hot dry periods.

When growing as a patio plant in colder climates, plants will need some winter protection. In fall, when plants are dormant, move the pot into an unheated garage or other place that is protected from winter winds and cold. Check periodically to maintain moisture in the pot.