

Welsh Fruit Stocks What to Grow Guide



The types of soft fruit that may grow well in your garden will depend on your soil type, aspect (sun/shade and shelter from wind), and also on what you would like from your crop of soft fruit.

Types of soil

It is best to use a soil testing kit to check the pH of your soil, and treat it accordingly.

Clay Soil (sticky when wet): It is best to plant in raised beds or on a ridge to aid drainage, particularly if growing raspberry canes as they will not like water-logged soil.

Sandy Soil (very gritty): Mix in plenty of well-rotted compost a few months before planting, and monitor moisture levels carefully.

Peaty Soil (high in organic matter, dark colour): Plant in raised beds or on a ridge if the ground has a tendency to become water-logged.

Chalky Soil (alkaline, light colour): Can be treated to neutralise, although both gooseberry bushes and red/white currant bushes can do okay in alkaline soils.

Silty soil (fine and dark): Ideal for most soft fruits, provided it is deep (blackcurrant bushes) and well drained (raspberry canes, rhubarb).

Loamy Soil (combination: sand, silt and a little clay): The ideal soil. Raspberry canes will still need a raised bed or ridge if the soil is prone to become water-logged, and blackcurrant bushes will prefer deeper soil.

Aspect

All soft fruits benefit from good sunlight to aid fruit ripening, although gooseberry bushes can do well in more shady conditions. A sheltered site is highly recommended for raspberry canes, especially the taller varieties (like Tulameen), and the tall growing blackcurrant bushes (Ben Hope).