

# Basic Orchard and Berry Bush Care

**Record Keeping:** Keep records of pruning, fertilization, and pest control efforts for future reference.

**Variety Selection:** Choose fruit tree and berry bush varieties suited to your climate and soil conditions.

**Pollination:** Ensure proper pollination by attracting pollinators like bees to your orchard.

**Birdhouses:** Attract beneficial birds that feed on insects by placing birdhouses in your orchard.

**Spacing:** Plant trees and bushes at recommended spacing to allow for proper air circulation and sunlight exposure.

**Training Trees:** Train young fruit trees with proper shaping techniques to encourage strong structures.

**Support Systems:** Use trellises or supports for trailing berry bushes to keep them off the ground.

**Harvest Timely:** Harvest fruits and berries at their peak ripeness to maximize flavor and quality.

**Crop Rotation:** Rotate berry bushes to different locations to prevent soil depletion and disease buildup.

**Harvest Bagging:** Use fruit bags to protect individual fruit from pests and disease.

Fruit Tree Netting: Cover fruit trees with netting during fruit-bearing to prevent bird damage.

Watering: Provide consistent and deep watering, especially during dry spells, to support healthy growth.

Mulching: Apply organic mulch around trees and bushes to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and provide nutrients.

Regular Soil Testing: Perform regular soil tests to adjust nutrient levels based on plant needs.

Fertilization: Use balanced organic fertilizers to nourish your orchard and berry plants.

pH Testing: Test soil pH and amend as needed to create optimal growing conditions.

Pruning Schedule: Establish a regular pruning schedule to maintain the health and shape of your fruit trees and berry bushes.

Berry Bush Renewal: Renew older berry bushes by pruning out old canes and promoting new growth.

Prune Deadwood: Remove dead or diseased branches promptly to prevent the spread of disease.

Thin Fruit: Thin out excess fruit to improve fruit size and prevent branches from breaking under the weight.

Companion Planting: Use companion plants to deter pests and improve soil health in your orchard.

Late Winter Pruning: Conduct major pruning during late winter when plants are dormant.

Protect from Wildlife: Install deterrents like netting or fencing to protect fruit from birds and wildlife.

Disease Prevention: Apply appropriate fungicides and pesticides to prevent common diseases and pests.

Pest Monitoring: Regularly inspect plants for signs of pests and address infestations promptly.

Organic Pest Control: Implement organic pest control methods like neem oil or diatomaceous earth.