how to plant and grow blackcurrants

Our two year old bushes may not fruit the first year but will provide currants for a good 10 years after that. You will need some space if planting more than one bush.

Planting time: November to March

Harvest: Mid summer

How to plant out your blackcurrant bush

- Plant in an open sunny site with plenty of organic matter in the soil, but they will still produce a good yield in a less than perfect position
- Keep them well watered during their first few months and again during the growing season
- Prune once a year in the autumn and apply a thick mulch of well-rotted compost (this is especially important with blackcurrants as they require more nutrients) - you can also feed with a general fertiliser in the spring
- When the fruit starts to change colour, protect from birds by covering in netting

Can you grow blackcurrants in a container pot?

Yes. These can be grown in large containers (minimum diameter 50cm) in John Innes no 3 or multipurpose compost with added grit and plenty of drainage material in the base.

Harvesting blackcurrants

- Harvest by taking off each bunch of berries with a strong pair of scissors. Pick your berries when it’s dry – wet currants will go mouldy
- For jelly, pick them when they are slightly unripe as there is more pectin in the fruit and the jelly should set much better

See Sarah’s recipes for blackcurrant mousse ice cream or a delicious blackcurrant and almond cake.