

Consider small fruits for garden

NEWARK, Del. — Home gardeners who've had success with vegetables and who have the space should consider growing some fruit, too, says University of Delaware extension horticulturist Dr. Charles Dunham.

Fruits like strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and grapes are especially suited for the small home garden.

Plant raspberries, blueberries and grapes in a permanent location where they'll get full sun. The grapes will need a trellis for support. It's also advisable to provide support for raspberries.

All three of these fruits can be used to create a hedge or landscape boundary in the yard. They also do well along one side of the vegetable garden. Blueberries are by far the most attractive as a hedge. Incidentally, they need a soil acidified by the incorporation of peat moss at planting and should be continuously mulched.

Plant grapes 8-10 feet apart. Allow 5 feet between blueberry plants and 2-3 feet between raspberries.

Strawberry plants are less permanent than these other small fruits. It's best to keep beds for 2-3 years and then renew your stock and relocate the bed. This helps prevent disease problems. Set strawberries 12 inches apart in rows 24 inches apart.

Don't expect to harvest any fruit from any of these crops the first season. Strawberries and raspberries will bear the second year after planting. Grapes take 2-3 years and blueberries 3-4 years to mature enough for fruit production.

Also be prepared to apply chemical sprays on all these plants if you're after top quality fruit. Grapes will require the most spraying, blueberries the least.

Anyone growing fruit should send for the Delaware Cooperative Extension

Service's bulletin on "Sprays for Home Fruit Plantings." This is available free from county extension offices in Newark, Dover or Georgetown.

Grapes, raspberries, and blueberries also require annual pruning, notes Dunham. Although the procedure is easily explained, it's best learned by practice.

He suggests you ask your

USDA to assist Mexico with corn, sorghum sales

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Government of Mexico Wednesday invited suppliers to bid for the sale of up to 500,000 metric tons of U.S. corn and up to 500,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum and/or corn for delivery to Mexico during the first half of 1980.

Tom Hughes, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, said bids are to cover corn and sorghum to be delivered beginning in mid-February with shipments to be completed at the end of June.

"This purchase will be the first of the 1.7 million metric tons of corn and 1.0 million tons of sorghum included in the mid-January agreement between the two countries," said Hughes.

Agreements have been signed with three U.S. rail companies and the National

county agent for extension bulletin No. 197, "Pruning in the Home Garden." This gives the basics on pruning fruit-bearing plants.

Plants for small fruits are best purchased by mail. There are several good fruit nurseries located on the Delmarva peninsula and their catalogues are available free on request.

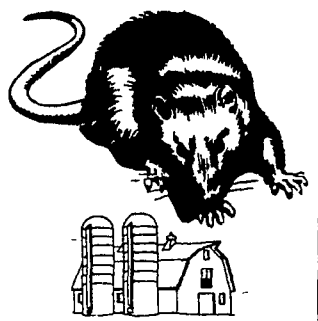
In selecting varieties, it's

usually best to stick to the standard ones that have proven satisfactory over a period of time, advises the horticulturist. When you become more knowledgeable you may wish to experiment with other kinds.

Choose varieties that are disease resistant where possible. This applies especially to strawberries. Everbearing raspberries that produce two crops a year are very satisfactory in Delaware. Just be sure to pick one, like Indian Summer, that produces an early second crop. Concord is still the standard blue grape for this area; Niagara is the standard white. Blueberries need more than one variety for pollination.

It's well to get your orders in early. It's also important that you request delivery for an early April planting. This allows plants to become well established in your garden before hot weather arrives.

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Railways of Mexico to ship sizable portions of the corn and sorghum, using special unit trains, he said. The balance will move by ocean freight from the Gulf ports.

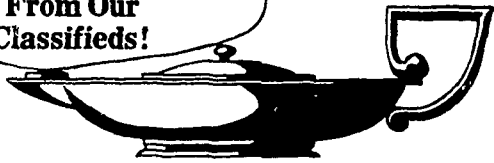
The USDA, through its Office of Transportation, will cooperate with Mexico in helping to coordinate the transportation logistics between the two countries.

These arrangements are in the context of the January 16 agreement between the two countries.

Inquiries should be directed to Alfredo Gutierrez Kirchner, Trade Office, Embassy of Mexico, 1101 15th street, NW, Suite 507, Washington, D.C., 20005, telephone 202/785-3214, or Glen R. Samson, deputy director for marketing, Grain and Food Division of the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, telephone, 202/447-4900.

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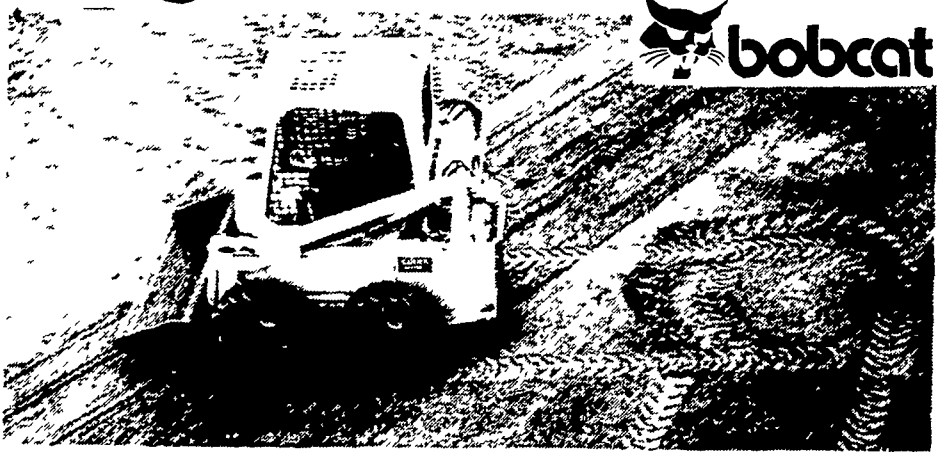


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