



PRUNING OF GOJI BERRY

Goji plant is developing very fast during the summer period when the sun shining, temperatures and rains correspond to its requirements. The plant pruning is a key element in cultivation toward maximum yields. Without pruning the Goji bush not only looks bad, lacks fruit branches that on the other hand lower the harvest. By pruning the development of the plant is improved, the ventilation and enlightening of the crown, by whom depends the quality and the quantity of the fruits, the maintenance of the rows and the inner spaces accessible for the technique.

Traditionally Goji berry is formed as umbrella (pic. 1). During the last years new models of pruning are practiced in order to raise the yield.

PRUNING OF GOJI BERRY AT THE FIRST YEAR OF CULTIVATION

- a. During the first year is recommended to leave the plant to grow as a bush in order to develop good stalks and strong root system.
- b. Pruning is performed throughout the whole season when the side sprouts are being cut from the roots and the shoots growing inside the crown at an angle more than 45 degrees and usually these sprouts crawl on the ground, that is not desirable.
- c. Stems that are grow to the height of 1,5 m are being at this level.
- d. Leave the strongest shoot as the main future stem and eliminate all of the others side shoots under 50cm;
- e. The plant can winter when modified this way as it is necessary to be attached to a supporting stick.

PRUNING OF GOJI BERRY FROM 2ND TO 5TH YEAR

Pruning at the second year. This pruning is from a great importance for the following development and the fruiting of the plant.

Traditionally the goji berry plant is pruned in the end of the winter when there is no sap movement and the plant is sleeping. For higher yield and fruit quality additional summer pruning is needed. This cutting is accompanied with the removal of two types of branches and leaves. The purpose is to develop a proper plant structure and balance between the underground and the upper part of the plant and the root system to ensure fruits with maximum quantity and quality.

Type GB1

The bush is being modeled during the early spring after the first year. The type is characterized with a strong and fast growth, the plants are modeled in cylindrical shape.

By this method of pruning in a time of early spring at the beginning of the vegetation of stems the strongest one among the overwintered must be chosen in order to form the stem. All the other stems must be removed. Spring time and summer time the plant shall be maintained by cleaning all the sprouts growing round the stalk, shoots growing in the bosom of the main branches, growing from the stem at an angle more than 45 degrees and such at the height of 35 cm from the ground. The plant is modeled with a crown from 4 to 6 layers according to the growth. For continuation of the main stem one shoot has to be left.

Type GB 2

The bush is being modeled during the early spring after the first year. The type is characterized with a strong and fast growth, the plants are modeled as tree formations. By this method of pruning in a time of early spring at the beginning of the vegetation of stems the strongest one among the overwintered must be chosen in order to form the stem (if the plant is very strong it can feed two stems). All the other stems must be removed. Spring time and summer time the plant shall be maintained by cleaning all the sprouts growing round the stalk, shoots growing in the bosom of the main branches, growing from the stem at an angle more than 45 degrees and such at the height of 35 cm from the ground. The plant is modeled with a crown from 3 to 4 layers according to the growth. For continuation of the main stem one shoot has to be left from the top of the plant, the other shoots shall be entirely removed. During the cultivation at a carrying wire structure other formations could also be applied such as leaving two stems at a distance by attaching to the net. Among these stokes a

side branches shall be left that are formed in order to produce. It is required to enlighten the plants while ensuring an air flow by eliminating the root cuttings and adding halm in the first 35-40 cm above the ground.

Type GB 4 and GB X

The plants from these types are characterized by a slower growth and forms a weaker and thinner stems. The most appropriate among them is the formation “Umbrella” that forms a stem clean from overgrown branches at the second year at the height of 1-1,5 m with crown similar to an umbrella. By this method of pruning in a time of early spring at the beginning of the vegetation of stems the strongest one among the overwintered must be chosen in order to form the stem. Spring time and summer time the plant shall be maintained by cleaning all the sprouts growing round the stalk, shoots growing in the bosom of the main branches, growing from the stem at an angle more than 45 degrees and such at the height of 80 cm from the ground. The plant is modeled with a crown from 1 to 2 layers according to the growth. For continuation of the main stem one shoot has to be left from the top of the plant, the other shoots shall be entirely removed.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRUNING FOR ALL VARIETIES:

New stem branches: New shoots that comes out from the main stem at the places of previous branches are characterized with vigorous development. These new branches do not bring flowers but consume large quantities of nutrients and minimize the feeding of fruit branches. That type of branches should be removed from their base. For a healthy Goji plant is normal to develop many new shoots in the spring-summer period. That specific characteristic of Goji plant require pruning twice in that period for their removal.

Root shoots: The root shoots develops directly from the root system especially at the places where the root was cut or injured during land cultivation. If these new shoots stays at the place they develop new plants and reduce the development of the main plant (become competitors for nutrition). The other negative effect is that they make difficult the land cultivation and the operation of the plantation.

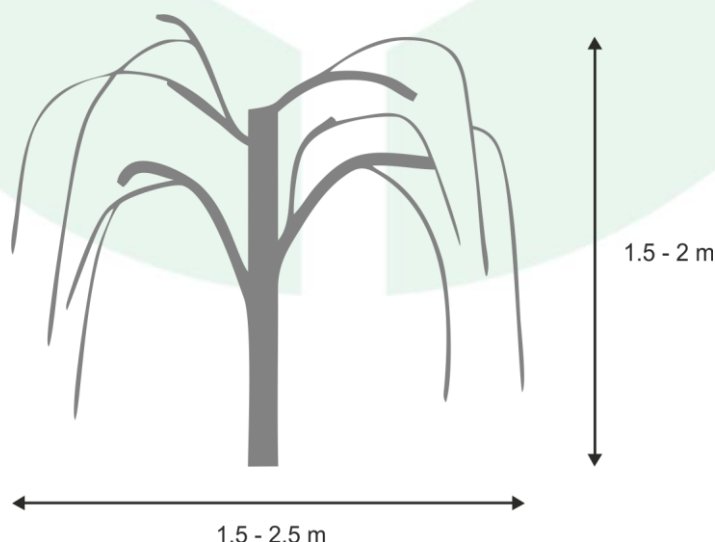
For the other brunches follow the instruction above (remove branches upon their angle toward the main stem). Sometimes it is necessary to remove some of the fruit bearing branches, to open place for light penetration and air circulation.

IMPORTANT:

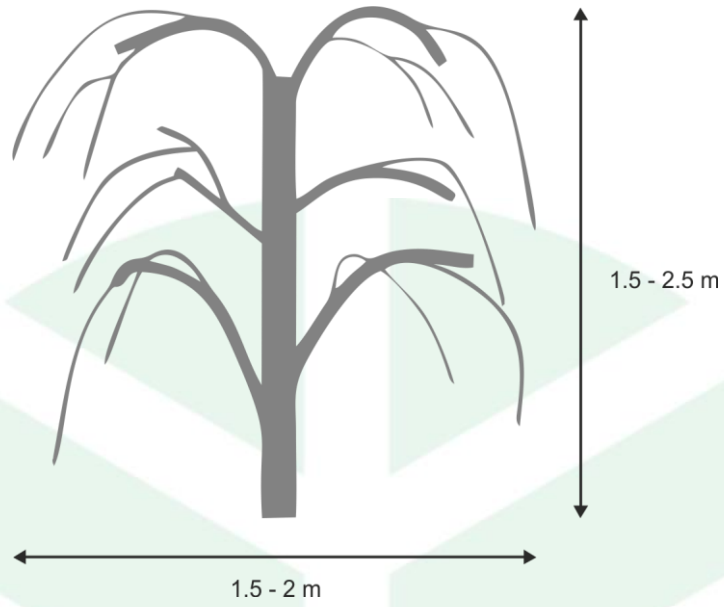
At the first two seasons a small post may be needed to make the plant stays straight.

This type of pruning is essential for the GB4 cultivar. The GB 1 and GB 2 could be grown as large bushes with several stems.

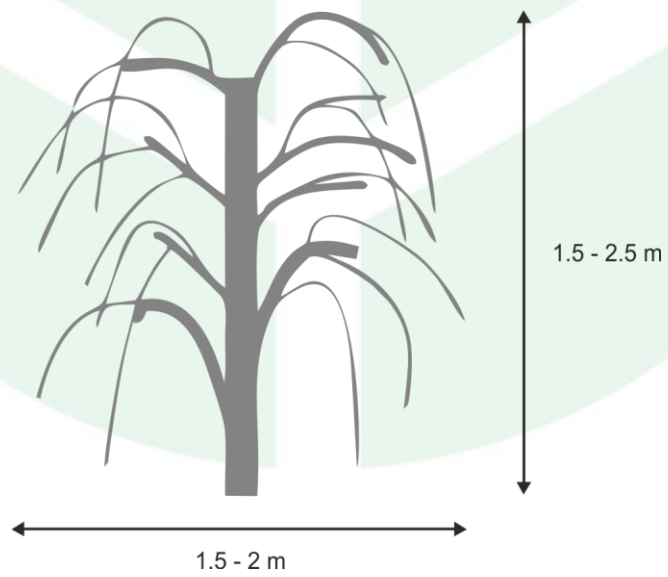
THE THREE TYPES OF GOJI BERRY PRUNING



UMBRELLA MODEL – 5 YEARS OLD PLANT



PRUNING GOJI TREE ON 3 LEVELS – 5 YEARS OLD PLANT



MULTILEVEL "Cylindrical" MODEL OF GOJI PRUNING – 5 YEARS OLD PLANT