

## **GOJI BERRY # 1**

### **ADVICES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **ESTABLISHING GOJI BERRY PLANTATION**



##### **PLANTATION PLACE**

The place selected for Goji plantation should be well cleaned from bushes and other vegetation. The most suitable are the lands covered with grasses or annual crops. During autumn or in spring the soil is fertilized with 20t per hectare well decayed manure, 300-400kg superphosphate and 150kg potassium fertilizer and then mulching at depth 30-35cm(not more than 40 cm) about a month before planting. If in the autumn this has not been performed the soil shall be enriched with manure.

The ground waters shall not exceed 80-90 cm depth (overwatered terrains should be avoided).

Planting of Goji is performed during spring or the summer. Before planting the land shall be leveled and marked. When develop large scale plantations with machine cultivation the distance between the rows is 2-2.5m and 1.5-2m between the plants in the row. For small plantations and home gardens, the distance is shortened up to 1.5m between rows and 1m between the plants.

##### **ADVICES:**

- Proportion of 1/3 (sand/soil) is the most appropriate for growing.
- Goji berry grows the better on soils with pH from 6.5-7.5, but it grows also on soils with pH from 8.2-8.6.
- Each good garden soil is appropriate for the normal development of Goji berry.
- If possible choose sunny meadows with drained soil.
- The plants prefer sunny places or partial shade.
- Goji berry is resistant to temperatures below -25<sup>0</sup> C and heat up to 40<sup>0</sup> C.
- Well rooted, and adapted to the place plants (2-3 years of age) are resistant to droughts.

##### **PLANTING**

The planting of young Goji berry plants in containers shall be made after of the extreme cold and late frost during the spring or summer. Before planting the land shall be flattened and marked. On large plantations where the cultivation is mechanical, the plants are planted at distance of 2-2.5m between the rows and 1.5 – 1.80m between the plants in the rows. For small plantations or home gardens, where the processing is performed by hand, the distance between the rows decreases to 1.5m, and to 1m in the row.

##### **Planting schemes**

Planting in home gardens:

1,5 m x 1,0 m = 666 pcs/acre

2,0 m x 1,0 m = 500 pcs/acre – Recommended !

Planting for professional farming:

2,0 m x 1,5 m = 333 pcs/acre

2,0 m x 1,8 m = 277 pcs/acre – Recommended !

2,5 m x 1,5 m = 266 pcs/acre – Recommended !

2,5 m x 1,8 m = 222 pcs/acre

3,0 m x 1,5 m = 220 pcs/acre

3,0 m x 1,8 m = 185 pcs/acre

3,0 m x 2,0 m = 166 pcs/acre

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### **ADVICES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **PLANTING GOJI BERRY**

The planting holes (in the land is not wholly cultivated) shall be made at the size of a minimum 20/20/20 or 30/30/30 cm. (length x width x depth). The topsoil shall be exuded at a side (as consequence the roots in the well are being covered with it). In a case when fertilizers are not spread prior the planting, at the bottom of the well shall be stored 100 grams superphosphate and 2-3 kg well rotten manure, mixed with a small amount of topsoil or peat. The planting holes shall be at minimum as wide as they can freely fit the roots. The young planting material is taken out from the containers, carefully without harming the root system. The plants are placed in the hole at the depth they were inside the container (not more than 3-4 cm deeper). Press few times carefully at the corners of the hole towards the center in order to firm the soil around each root. A wreath shall be made from the surrounding soil, in order to retain the water from rainfalls and irrigation. Each plant needs minimum 3-4 liters of water when planted. In order to prevent the rapid water evaporation after irrigation the soil around the plants shall be covered with dry soil. After planting the soil between the rows is enough stepped out and it is recommended to make it loose it by a cultivator. In a case of drying the new plantation of Goji berry shall be irrigated additionally 1-2 times in the summer according to its needs.

**IMPORTANT!!!** No matter the soil is wet or no, the planted tree shall be watered with 10 litres of water, in order to drive away the air in the gaps and the soil to touch the roots. After irrigation the surface could be covered with manure, straw, hay, leaves or bark to prevent evaporation of the moisture. The plant is softly attached to the supporting stick with a soft tie. Until the autumn the plant will need 2-3 more irrigations monthly to root well. Irrigation shall not be too extensive, especially when the soils are heavy and it's often raining, because there is a danger of root decay and dying of the plant! The trees shall be maintained without any weeds and competing greenery. First additional fertilizer application can be performed after plant stabilization in the soil and developing of stem.

#### **GROWING GOJI PLANTATION**

The optimal development of the Goji plants occurs without the existence of concurrent vegetation in the plantation. That could be maintained with cultivations around the plants and the distance between rows. The first cultivation is performed in spring immediately after the soil become dry. Depending on the local conditions additional cultivation may be needed 2-3 times during the year. The spring and summer cultivations are performed shallow in the ground (10-12cm). To reach sustainable high yields of Goji fruits the most important condition is the fertilizing. When the soils are poor of humus the addition of 10-12 t/ha of decayed manure early in spring are sufficient. In rich soils the same quantity of manure is thrown every second year. To reach maximum results is useful to stimulate the Goji plants with mineral fertilizers twice per year (early in spring and at the time when the plants form fruits). The fertilizers are applied with quantities of 50kg ammonium nitrate per hectare. The superphosphate and the potassium fertilizers are added with the cultivation after harvest later in autumn. You can add 20kg of superphosphate and 5kg of potassium sulphate per hectare.

**You can choose to use each of the techniques - fertilizers or manure. There are also certified products for organic production.**

Goji berry is an appropriate culture for organic farming.

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*This document is only a guide. The data for its completion includes various sources and experiments according to the specific land conditions (climate, soils) that are not under the control of the author. The authors could not guarantee the accuracy of the consequences of the above instructions.*