



## **Ken Muir's Guide to Growing Lingonberries**

**Lingonberry: a low growing evergreen plant with bright red, cranberry-like fruits. They are easy to grow being drought tolerant, pest and disease resistant they are happy in full sun or semi shade**

### **SOIL CONDITIONS**

Lingonberries require a deep free-draining soil that has a gritty texture. Heavy clay soils are unsuitable, if however, they are high in organic matter and coarse grit is added, they can be brought into the right sort of condition that will support this crop. Lingonberries must be grown in a soil with a pH of between 4.0 and 5.5. Soils overlying chalk or limestone and other soils that contain free lime cannot be brought into conditions that will grow Lingonberries. Soils that are otherwise suitable but have too high a pH can be acidified so that the plants can grow successfully. The pH of such soils should be measured with an electronic meter or chemical testing kit. Each plant should be treated in accordance with either flowers of sulphur, peat or sawdust, to bring the pH down.

If your soil is totally unsuitable, Lingonberries can be grown in containers, using ericaceous compost

### **PLANTING DISTANCES**

Plants should be set 30cm – 60cm apart (12"-24") and 60cm away from other plants

### **MANURING, MULCHING and WATERING**

Lingonberries do not need a rich fertiliser like many fruits so use one containing the trace elements and minerals found in their native soils. A lime or calcium free ericaceous fertilizer may be used following the manufacturer's recommendations. A mulch of sawdust (preferably wet or partly rotted so that it does not blow away) will prevent the germination of weed seeds as well as helping to keep the soil pH from rising. It needs to be as deep as 15cm (6in). Peat or tree bark are also suitable materials for mulching Lingonberries and need only to be applied to a depth of 5cm (2in).

When establishing new plants only rain water should be used. In the absence of rain water, it is better to use tap water in conjunction with an ericaceous fertilizer which will neutralise any lime in it.

### **PRUNING**

Trim back as necessary

### **HARVESTING**

Lingonberries ripen from late July through August and into September

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