

Peter Barwick's Key Points on planting and growing soft fruit

1. Remove all perennial weeds before planting
2. Use plenty of ericaceous compost when planting
3. Add slow release fertiliser when planting
4. Water well after planting and give 1-2 litres per plant per week during the first season
5. Mulch with ericaceous compost-but take care not to mulch raspberries too deeply
6. Use straw under strawberry plants to keep fruit clean when ripening and use slug pellets with the straw to prevent them eating the fruit
7. In March feed soft fruit with Vitax Q4 or Growmore with up to one and a half times the rates recommended on the box.
8. When the crop is ripening be sure to water well-never less than half a watering can per square yard