



Care for Your Food Forest

Watering

After your food forest is planted, you will need to water if it doesn't rain at least an inch in the first week. Your plants need to be watered once every week to 10 days, or when the soil feels dry on your fingertip when you insert it into the soil about 1.5 inches down/up to your second knuckle. Trees need about 3 to 4 gallons per watering, whereas other plants need less. It is best to water low and slow. Water until you see a sheen of liquid on the soil surface that stays for at least three seconds before soaking in. This means that the soil is saturated, and you should stop watering. **Water only when necessary. Do not water every day. Too much water or lack of water are the main reasons why plants fail to thrive.** Water more frequently (twice per week) during hot and dry weather. In the fall, keep watering until the ground freezes. The second and third year you can stop watering unless there is a drought (more than 3 weeks of no rain).

Currants: Your shrubs should be renewal pruned annually by cutting off 1/3 of the oldest stems at ground level starting when they are 3 years old. I can prune for you or teach you how to do this. The fence around your currants can be removed eventually unless you have heavy rabbit pressure. Mulch with wood chips 4 inches deep around the tree and sparingly one foot out from the trunk. If the soil is bad, I make a mound of top soil and plant on top of it.

Juneberry/Serviceberry: Light pruning, lightly fertilize with two or three handfuls of compost to the top of the soil during planting, check fence before winter. The fence can be removed eventually unless you have heavy rabbit pressure. Mulch with wood chips.