


My Personal Experience with Goji

Care Of Your Goji Plants


- 🍅 After transplanted to pots the goji is a hardy plant, do not be **intimidated** by it. Sounds funny, but many people make too many mistakes just because they worry the plants to death.
- 🍅 Germination in flats is preferred, aluminum turkey pans are great because they do not attract mold like some plastics do.
- 🍅 Use sterile material (kept at 50-70 deg F for best germination).
- 🍅 Seed starter soil works best. Get a good brand, run your hands through it, (if it contains wood products you will see splinters)
- 🍅 Avoid wood product based seed starters because they contain turpines that kill seeds, I prefer **Coir** based products mixed with **Neem Bark**.
- 🍅 The plants are slow to geminate usually 3 to 4 weeks (depending on temperature).
- 🍅 The Goji likes full sun, I have just discovered Humidity is not an issue after looking at a plant being raised in Hawaii.
- 🍅 Test your plants by moving the flats (as the plants mature) toward longer periods in the sunlight. (toughen them up)
- 🍅 The Goji perks up quickly with an application of the water mixed with fertilizer.
- 🍅 Suggested Fertilizers
 1. Fish Emulsion .use as directed on the container
 2. Worm tea
 3. Brewed **Seaweed tea** (tastes salty but it is OK for plants)
 4. **Use water to brew tea until mild to taste.**
 5. The best seaweeds are **Kombu** and **Wakeme**

 Avoid hot chemical fertilizers such as **Urea**. Why?

1. The hot fertilizers promote harmfully fast plant growth and make the plant long and lanky.

 When to transplant

1. The Best time to Transplant from pots is spring.
2. When the Goji plants are 2 to 3 inches tall, it is time to separate them. Transplant the baby Goji's to 8 inch or larger containers. Make sure there is plenty of room for the taproot to grow during its first year.
3. When transplanting be careful to not allow the roots to air-dry or rest too long in water.
4. Goji's do not like air around the roots or wet roots for long periods of time.
5. Do not be discouraged if the plant looks dead for a short time usually it looks like this when it is concentrating on root growth.

 The plants need as much time to grow as possible. Depending on your area, winter could throw the plants into shock. Goji go dormant in winter where the weather goes below freezing. This is OK. They are rated for 15 below 0 degrees, but I believe that with mulch around the roots they could go lower.

 Mulches

1. Materials to look for when growing the Goji.
2. **Coir** (coco fiber) a good additive for growing mediums
3. **Worm castings, worm tea**
4. **Neem** (leaf, bark, tea) great fungicide, insecticide (long term)
5. Avoid bark and wood by-product compost as much as possible. They may contain growth inhibitors that naturally occur in pine trees.


Slug Repellents


1. **Liquid Escargo!** Is best but any kind that is animal friendly
2. When the plants are young, I would put a ring of slug repellent around each plant so the slugs will not strip your plant.


Fungus

1. **Bordeaux** is OK; Goji tolerates the same types of fungus killer as for tomatoes and grapes.
2. **Neem** is the best long-term organic fungicide and insecticide.
3. The active ingredient in **Neem** can be absorbed by the plant with no harm to the plant or to you.

Planting

 Containers are OK; just remember to give the plant plenty of root room.

 Protecting the plant from slugs and birds and wild life is important. Bird netting works good.

 This plant is native to 13,000-foot altitude and we really do not know how it does in your neck of the woods.

Things to consider when you plant your Goji in the Ground

1. Space required
2. Growing as a Vine the goji needs 20 feet lateral and 8 feet Vertical, the vine method is used commercially for larger harvests and greater control of the drying fruit
3. Growing as shrub the Goji needs 8 feet lateral and 15 feet vertical.

4. It takes extra work in the training phase but makes a very pretty landscape plant. This plant style is also just as easy to cover with a bird net. I emphasize this because we have a Starling problem. (more on that some other time)

Pruning

1. Pruning encourages fruit production, if your plant goes dormant, Do most of your pruning during this time of year.
2. When you prune during a growing season, be careful to observe the cuts for proper healing. Look for molds, or a blackening of areas. If you see such things, give me an e-mail.
3. Make sure where you plant your Goji, the land was not a super-fund chemical waste dump site. You are what you eat, and Goji's are what they absorb.
4. This plant can be trimmed any way you want and all the clippings can grow into more plants.

Give your plant a long-term boost of health.

1. When you plant your Goji in the ground, prepare the ground by digging deep, (about 2 foot down) and add coir or potting soil to the ground mixing it with the soil you are planning to plant around your Goji. [Why am I so fond of Coir]
2. Mix in some seaweed compost with the soil and build the ground up to where you plan the crown of your vine to sit. The crown is clearly defined by the place where your Goji is above ground and the root structures begin.
3. After you tamp your Goji into its new bed with your palms, add water to fill in all the air pockets that may have developed by disturbing the ground.
4. Place your slug repellent around the base to prevent unwanted diners.
5. After one week or so, fertilize with any of the afore mentioned fertilizers.

6. The plant may look weak for a while but if you have made sure there are no air pockets, or that the plant drains properly between waterings, then the plant should perk right up and grow, grow , grow.

Fruit Care and Concerns

1. Once your plant's flower you can let nature pollinate or do it
2. yourself. In most cases, nature will be ready to take care of it.
3. Net your plants when you notice the flowers starting to grow fruit.
4. It is not good to touch the fruit it makes them dark and ruins them. Skin oils are not good for Goji fruit.
5. Start early laying clean burlap under your Vines/Shrubs usually late July, early August, Watch the fruit and when the fruit starts to get big about the size of a large pea, it is time to lay the burlap.
6. When the fruit drops time to dry the fruit.
7. Usually, it takes 3 years before a Goji fruits this may change depending upon your growing seasons. In the south, the plant may do better.

Drying the Goji Fruit

1. If your area is not good for drying, fruit once it has fallen then consider taking up the burlap gently rolling the burlap with the fruit in it. **Uses latex type gloves that do not put your skin oils on the fruit.**
2. Unroll the fruit gently into trays for drying, and then dry according to the instructions of the dehydrator you are using.
3. You can also use screens that you gently put the fruit on. Protect form flies and other pests.

4. The fruit is dry when hard and looks like a reddish raisin.
5. Put in containers and they can be frozen for extra protection.
6. Drying on the Ground
7. Do everything like above but toward the end, I recommend you take the fruit out just as above let the fruit sit in the sunlight for extra drying.

Juicing the Goji Fruit

1. Once the fruit drops then collect it just like a fore mentioned
2. Pour fruit into large bowl then rinse free of any bugs ect..
3. There are numerous methods for juicing the Goji, I prefer pressing the fruit within cheesecloth in a cold press.

Glossary Links for more information.

Enjoy the info, some have products for purchase.
I do not make money on the links.

<http://www.greeneem.com/>

http://neemtreefarms.com/catalog/all_products.php

<http://www.planetnatural.com/site/coconut-coir-fiber.html>

http://www.ehow.com/buy_12199_seaweed-fertilizer.html

<http://www.agorganics.com/productcat/Fertilizers/13.html>

<http://www.ultimategardencenter.com/products.php?pid=151&openparent=124>

Favorite Survival Plants:

Goji

Black Elderberry (varieties, John Adams, Cutleaf, Varigated)

Comfrey (the leaf is safe and delicious)

Common yellow Day lily (use like potatoes, check for alergic reaction) Patent name not an issue.

Purple Cornflower

True Rugosa Rose White prefered for hips
(www.heirloomroses.com)