

Although not related genetically, both of these plants require similar growing conditions – full sun, well drained soil and, once established, they are quite drought tolerant.

Goji berries

Goji berries (also known as wolfberries and boxthorns) have more antioxidants than almost any other fruit. Goji berries contain 21 essential minerals, including iron, zinc, and selenium as well as 15% protein. These colorful plants are deciduous, woody perennials that are very adaptable to many microclimates. They are able to survive temperatures as high as 100°F and as low as -20°F.

Gojis prefer well drained soil and full sun and they will become quite drought tolerant over the years. These shrubs don't usually bear a lot of fruit until the third year; the plants we sell are two years old. You'll know your shrubs are about to bear fruit as you see small purple and white trumpet-shaped flowers blooming from summer until the first freeze.

As your goji shrub grows, the berries will become larger and more nutritious; in this respect they are similar to many wine grapes - older vines produce better grapes. You can get your Goji plant to become more shrub-like (with less vining) by nipping buds so that it forms more branches. It can even be grown as a hedge!

However, if you don't want to grow a hedge of Gojis be prepared to do a little pruning. Most pruning is done when the plant is dormant. Aim for a plant that tops out at 6 feet tall and keep the center open so sun and air can reach the interior of the plant. Remove any side branches within a foot of the ground. Cut out all root sprouts. Your goal is a horizontal, rather than vertical growth with one main trunk.

Arbequina Olives

The Arbequina olive is a fast growing olive tree laden with flavorful olives; even small trees can produce up to 20 pounds of olives each year. According to Red Ridge Farms in Dayton, OR these olives, "have a nutty, buttery flavor with a hint of banana, and mild pepper finish". Arbequinas are especially prized by the olive oil industry with local area growers raising over 13,000 trees. They are a semi-deciduous, frost-hardy, pest-resistant tree, growing to a height of 20 feet, with a 12-foot spread.

Arbequinas tolerate cold temperatures of 10°F to 14°F. Plant them outdoors in growing zones 8-11. In zone 7 they should be blocked from north winds. They require full sun and a well drained soil and will become drought tolerant (although they always appreciate a little moisture). Arbequinas are often grown in large containers surrounded by colorful annuals.