

TIPS FOR GROWING RASPBERRIES

- **Choose a well drained soil**
- **Prepare a soil that is free of weeds and plant in early spring**
- **Water well after planting specially the first year**
- **Each spring applied a balanced fertilizer**
- **In the fall cut canes to the ground**

Getting to Know the Brambles

All brambles have a perennial root system which produces canes that are either biennial (grow for 2 years) or annual. During the first growing year the canes are vegetative and are known as primocanes. In the second growing season, the canes become reproductive and bear fruit. Following fruiting, these 2 year old canes, now called floricanes, die. At the same time, the bramble plant is also producing new primocanes,

Red raspberries are by far the most popular. The red come in both one-crop and two crop variety (summer-bearing and fall-bearing) The one crop bears fruit in mid-summer on canes that have grown a previous year, after bearing cane die. Two crop raspber-

ries a lot of times are called everbearers, but they are not. Two crop raspberries bear once during the summer on canes grown the previous year and produce a additional crop in the fall on canes grown the current year.

Yellow raspberries are closely related to red and blacks. They are ideal for home gardens the downside is that they are more susceptible to viruses.

Black raspberries unlike red raspberries, they produce few suckers, they start new plants when their long canes bend over and the tips touch the soil and root. Plants are less hardy and tend to have more seeds than red.

Purple raspberries are closely related to the

blacks and have some kind of a similar flavor. Purple one are among the most vigorous and more resistant to pest and diseases but are less hardy.

Blackberries come in two types. Trailing and upright and they are available as thorny and thornless. Upright types form canes from a crown and roots, the trailing types grow canes from a central crown.



Raspberries



Caroline Raspberry.
Fall red raspberry
sweet berry, large
size, disease resistant
good for zones 3-8

*You can plant red &
black brambles together.*

*Historically they have
been planted separately
but not to keep the fruits
from cross pollinating.*

*The potential problem is
from insects transmitting
diseases. If you control*

*the insects, you control
the problem. However,
separating them by at
least 200 yards will
protect you from most
problems.*

Raspberries are a shallow rooted plants. Is important to pay attention on soil type when choosing a site for planting. Raspberries grow better in well-drained loam or sandy loam soil with a pH between 6.0 to 7.0. Many people starts their patch on a piece of their garden that before was formerly lawn. If that is the plant you have for your new garden please first check if there will not be a problem with white grubs or wireworms. If you see there are too many planting something else to get rid of them, a good source will be



planting pumpkins or sweet corn for a year or two in order to reduce population.

When setting new plants in the ground a hole deep and large enough needs to be dig in able to spread the roots well. Bareroot plants should be planted one inch deeper than their were planted in the nursery.

When planting cane needs to be cut, this will reduce

the stress on the plant since no flowers or fruit will grow the first season. Raspberries likes water but not to be standing on it. Water is important specially the first four weeks specially before harvest.

Fertilizer should be applied annually specially during the first growing season. Fertilizer should be spread with at least four inches from the base never touching the plant to avoid burning the young roots. Once a plant is established should provide 8-15 years of berries.

Irrigation

Ample amounts of water are needed for a healthy bramble planting, but they don't like to be on standing water. New plants should be watered in well. Producing fields need

up to two inches of water per week especially during fruit development and up to harvest. Mulching can help maintain and moderate fluctuations in available moisture,

but may increase your chances of developing root diseases. Therefore we do not recommend using mulch after the first year.

Pruning Brambles

Summer Red raspberries: In early spring, thin all floricanes (the 2 year old canes) to 3-5 large canes per linear feet of row and top at a convenient height for picking. Immediately after fruiting, cut floricanes at ground level and burn. If this is done on an annual basis nothing needs to be done to primocanes.

Black/Purple Raspberries: When black raspberry primocanes (1st year growth) reach about 24 inches, pinch them back to stimulate lateral branching. At least 4" of the tip should be removed during pinching. Purple raspberries should be pinched at 30". This may need to be done multiple

times during the growing season as canes grow at different rates. Immediately after fruiting, remove floricanes at ground level and burn. At the end of the first year, primocanes are branched with long laterals. These laterals should be supported by trellis wires in early fall as snow tend to break them off the main cane, In early spring shorten these laterals to remove winter damaged wood and to maintain berry size. A good rule of thumb is to shorten the laterals back to pencil diameter. This usually leaves about 6-10" of growth. Very small spindly laterals as well as any laterals close the soil surface should be removed.

Fall/Primocane bearing Raspberry and Blackberry: To prune Primocane bearing berries for a

single, late season crop simply cut them back to the ground each year in late winter or early spring. It is important to cut canes as close to the ground as possible so that new buds will break from below the soil surface. If canes are not low enough, fruiting laterals may form on any remaining, cane portion, these fruiting laterals are not healthy and are entry sites for insects and disease. While these varieties can produce fruit twice a year, July and again in the fall the small July crop usually does not justify the added labor involved.

Blackberries: Erect-When blackberry primocanes (1st year growth) reach about 36 inches, tip them to stimulate

Lateral branching. Immediately after fruiting, remove floricanes at ground level and burn. In early spring, remove any dead or damaged canes and thin remaining canes leaving 5-6 per linear row. Prune laterals back to approximately 12" or pencil diameter.

Blackberry Trailing-Tip primocanes when they reach 5' (midsummer) and attach to trellis. In early spring, remove any dead or damaged canes, and prune laterals back to approximately 12" or pencil diameter. Immediately after fruiting remove floricanes at ground level and burn. Select the best 6-8 primocanes per linear row and attach to trellis.

Tip:

Gardeners in northern climates (zones 3, 4, 5) have had success growing summer bearing blackberries by planting trailing varieties. Remove the canes from the trellis in the fall and lay them flat on the

ground. Cover with a thick layer of straw mulch and provide a windbreak to create a thick cover of snow to protect the canes from winter damage. Retrellis the canes in the spring. This method has

been successful on a regular basis. In our opinion, this is too much work for commercial growers.

