



GROWING RASPBERRIES

CHOOSING PLANTING SITE

Choose a well-draining site. If your site is poorly drained or heavy clay, build raised beds.

Full sun is preferred although raspberries will produce in part shade.

Fertile soil with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.8 is optimal.

Raspberries are very susceptible to catching viruses from wild brambles. Plant far away from old berry patches, wild brambles or where crops of strawberries, or vegetables in the Solanaceae family have been previously grown.

PREPARING & PLANTING

Beds should be 2' wide with 8' pathways. The wide paths provide good airflow and can be planted with grass or cover crops or covered in mulch.

Prepare beds by mixing in 2" of compost or well-aged manure. This is best done the Fall prior to planting or at least 2-3 weeks before planting.

Space plants 2-3' apart.

Set the plants slightly deeper than they were in the nursery.

Water the plants thoroughly immediately after planting. A raspberry plant should receive one to two inches of water per week.

WEED CONTROL

After planting, apply 1-2" of mulch around the base of the plants to conserve soil moisture and reduce weed growth. Aged wood chips, wood shavings, untreated bark mulch, straw, or composted leaves can be used as mulching materials.

Weed weekly as plants establish themselves.

FERTILIZATION

Beginning in the Spring of the second year, add a small amount of compost as a top dressing to the soil, or spread two ounces of a balanced fertilizer (e.g. Pro-Gro) per 8' row (4 plants).

PRUNING

A good trellis system is recommended for all brambles to improve yield and ease of harvest.

Everbearing (Primocane) types: Produce fruit on first and second year canes.

To have one highly productive fall crop, mow or cut all the canes all the way to the ground in winter or early spring while plants are dormant.

To produce an earlier summer crop as well as a fall crop prune as a summer bearing type.

Summer bearing (Florican) types: Produce fruit only on second year canes.

After harvest, cut canes that have fruited at base of plant. Cut weak, damaged or diseased canes at base. Cut more canes if needed to leave 3-4 canes per square foot.

DISEASES & PESTS

The key to good pest management is prevention. Keep your planting free of weeds (which compete for nutrients and water, and may also harbor insects and diseases.)

The SWD fly (Spotted Wing Drosophila) is becoming more and more wide spread. It can be helpful to harvest mature berries quickly and remove any spoiled fruit from the plants. Once fruit is harvested use quickly and store under refrigeration.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NOURSE FARM: www.noursefarms.com, look under "Growing Info", then select crop under "Grow Your Plants"

JOHNNY'S SEEDS: www.johnnyseeds.com, look under "Grower's Library", then "Fruit Library"

CORNELL UNIVERSITY: www.gardening.cals.cornell.edu, look under "Garden Guidance", then "Food Gardening".

For more tips visit

WWW.REDWAGONPLANTS.COM