

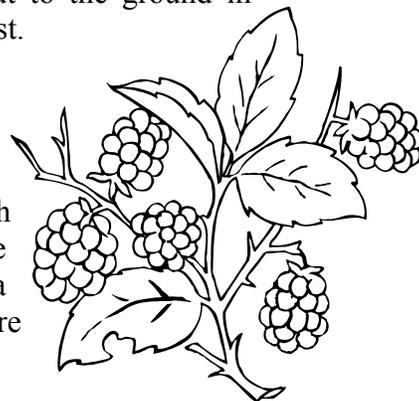
Unique Garden Centre

RASPBERRIES

Red raspberries are widely grown on the prairies. Most raspberries are floricanes - plants with a perennial root stock and biennial canes. Some varieties are primocanes which bear in late summer on the current season's growth. Primocane varieties are cut to the ground in March or April each year with production beginning in mid to late August.

Prior to Planting

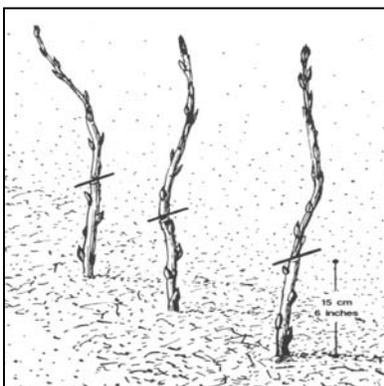
In preparation work up the soil to destroy perennial weeds especially quack grass and Canada Thistle. Incorporate well rotted manure at a rate of about ½ lb per sq. ft. Locate your raspberry patch with adequate protection for the winds, usually from the north and the west on the prairies. Do not plant raspberries on the south side of a building, as they will start to grow too early in the spring. Make sure that you grow only varieties suited for your district.



Planting

Canes should be set 2 to 3 inches deeper than they were in their original location, and cut back to 5 or 6 inches. Mature suckers of the previous year's growth are best, but if spring suckers are used, dig them before they have made too much growth, and planting only those with a very good root system. Raspberries break dormancy very early and so planting should be done as early in the spring as it is possible to work the land. Spring planting is normally best, but if the season is long, it may sometimes be possible to plant early in September allowing plenty of time for new root growth to take place before freeze up. Red raspberries increase by suckers, which are allowed to grow freely the first year, increasing the width of the row to 18 inches or even two feet, but never wider than that. Any suckers beyond the row should be cut off with a sharp spade at once. Grow in full sun to partial shade.

For commercial production, raspberries are commonly grown in a hedgerow, with the rows 6 – 8 feet apart, depending on the amount of water available, using the closer spacing



where sufficient water can be supplied. They can be grown in hills with 5 to 8 canes per hill, set about 5 feet apart each way. This makes for easier cultivation and picking, but the production of berries is usually somewhat less than in the hedgerow system, but the fruit is often superior. If you are planting just for some fresh picking & personal use, planting one or two hills and letting it become a small patch that can be picked from the edges often works well. Great care should be taken to get only healthy canes, free from all diseases. Disease is easier to control when the raspberries are grown in hills than when they are grown in hedgerows.

Fall Care and Maintenance

In the fall, do not over-water after August 20th. This allows the canes to harden off properly. In the spring, all old canes, if not previously cut out, should be removed, and only the strongest of the new ones allowed to remain, with all others being cut down to the ground. Allow at least 6 inches between canes. Normally, not more than 4 canes should be allowed to remain per foot of row.

Many people grow raspberries without supports of any kind, but the canes tend to droop when laden with fruit, and it is hard to keep the berries clean and to pick them. A support may consist of a series of posts about 5 feet high down the centre of the row with a single wire strung from post to post, and the canes tied to this wire, or a pair of wires may be used enclosing the canes between them.

Picking



Pick berries when they have good color, are still firm and yet remove easily from the receptacle. Raspberries crush very readily, and so should never be picked into large, deep containers. Shallow pint baskets are a better choice. Raspberries can be canned, frozen and are, of course, delicious fresh.

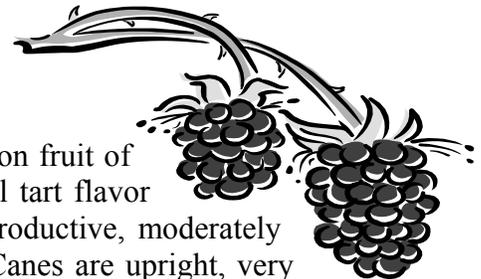
Pests & Diseases

Red spider mites are the chief insect pest of raspberries, and are the worst in hot, dry weather. They may often be controlled by forcibly spraying the undersides of the leaves with cold water. The only disease of any importance is mosaic, a virus disease, and only resistant varieties should be grown. If only a plant or two show signs of infection (the leaves are light green at first, later showing a yellow mottle and tending to pucker), these should be dug up, along with adjoining plants, and destroyed. If more than just a few are affected, the whole plantation should be dug up and destroyed. Replace with new healthy stock, far away from the old planting as possible – 100 yards or more. In the case of a city lot, remove plantation and do not replace for at least 3 years.

Varieties

Boyne - florican

Introduced in 1960 from Manitoba. It is an early to mid season fruit of medium size. The color is medium to dark red with a typical tart flavor and are good for freezing. Boyne is a very hardy variety, productive, moderately vigorous and suckers freely. Fruit is produced as one crop. Canes are upright, very spiny with little branching. It is resistant to yellow rust and tolerant of crown gall. It is susceptible to anthracnose and verticillium wilt and somewhat susceptible to fire blight.



Heritage - florican

Originating from New York, Heritage is a late maturing variety. An ever-bearing variety that has a moderate summer crop followed with a heavier late summer crop. It is a great variety to extend the season of raspberries, but is susceptible to early frosts. It is a medium sized berry with high yields. Canes are tall, thorny and rugged. Heritage has shown some tolerance to the mosaic virus and is resistant to many pests.

Fall Gold - florican

It produces two crops per year. Fruit is large, golden yellow colored raspberry with exceptional taste.

Double Delight - primocane

Another introduction from the Morden Research Station in Manitoba. It is a very hardy primocane type that grows to 1.2 meters tall. Berries are smaller, tangy sweet tasting medium red fruit. One of the early producing varieties. Simply cut the canes down completely in the fall and next years canes will grow once again from the root, producing another beautiful crop.

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