

Berry Varieties for Backyard Growers



Plant Clinics

Plant clinics provide opportunities to learn about plants and solve gardening problems. A variety of topics -- such as plant identification, pest and disease control, and best gardening practices -- can be addressed.

Clallam County Courthouse
223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles
MONDAYS: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Master Gardener Demonstration Garden
2711 Woodcock Road, Sequim
Most first and third SATURDAYS: 10am – 1pm

Email
mgplantclinic.clallam@gmail.com

Plant Clinic Help Line
(360) 417-2514 (leave message)

Contact Information:

Clallam County Master Gardeners
Program Coordinator: (360) 565-2679
<http://extension.wsu.edu/clallam/>

Master Gardener
Foundation of Clallam County:
<http://www.clallammgf.org>

4/14/2022

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the Master Gardener Program Coordinator at (360) 565-2679 at least two weeks prior to the event.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

they usually produce some fruit during the first season. All runners are removed from everbearers and day-neutrals. As a result, plantings lose their vigor after 1 to 2 years.

Strawberries are self-fruitful and do not need a cross-pollinator. Planting more than one variety, including June-bearers, everbearers, and day-neutrals, ensures a crop the first year and extends the season for fresh berries.

Blueberries

The most common types of blueberries are *Northern highbush* and *half-high*. *Northern highbush* blueberries are large shrubs that grow to a height of 5 to 6 feet and produce well in our climate. *Half-high* blueberry bushes are smaller and less productive but are well-suited for growing in containers and are hardier.

Onset of ripening among blueberry varieties ranges from the beginning of July to mid-September, leading to the labels *early*, *midseason*, *late-midseason*, and *late*.

Although blueberry bushes are relatively hardy, avoid planting early ripening varieties (which bloom in early spring and could be damaged by late frosts) and late ripening varieties (whose fruit might not ripen because of cool temperatures) at higher elevations.

Blueberries are self-fruitful but will produce more and bigger berries if pollinated by a different blueberry variety.

Early	Late-midseason
Earliblue	Berkeley
Spartan	Jersey
Patriot	
	Late
Midseason	Darrow
Bluejay	Elliott
Bluecrop	Herbert



Strawberries

Strawberry types include *June-bearers*, *everbearers*, and *day-neutrals*. *June-bearers* produce one bumper crop of berries each year, generally in June and July. *Everbearers* (a bit of a misnomer) produce berries in June and again in late summer or early fall. *Day-neutrals* produce berries throughout the summer but sometimes stop producing during hot weather.

June-bearers	Everbearers
Hood	Fort Laramie
Puget Summer	Quinault
Puget Reliance	Day-neutrals
Rainier	Seascape
Shuksan	Tribute
Tillamook	Tristar

June-bearers typically have larger, more flavorful berries than everbearers and day-neutrals. They produce more runners and, if properly maintained, produce well for 4 to 5 years. Flowers are removed from June-bearers the first year so that plants put their energy into runners.

Flowers are removed from everbearers and day-neutrals for only the first six weeks, so

General considerations

Many varieties of berries are available to the home grower. Selection should be based on how well the variety grows in our climate; personal preferences on flavor, color and size of the fruit; and timing of fruit set. Growth habit and disease resistance are other major considerations.

Before selecting a particular cultivar for your garden, make sure you can answer the following questions to your satisfaction:

- Is the variety suited to our climate?
- What is the fruit like? Is it large and firm? Does it have good flavor, texture, and color?
- What are the growth characteristics of the variety?
- What time of year does the variety fruit?
- Is the variety resistant to any diseases?

Early in the year (late winter), you can purchase dormant bare-rooted berry plants at nurseries and through mail order. These are often sold in bundles of two or more and are less expensive than those sold in pots. When purchasing through mail order, bare-rooted plants cost less to ship and there are often more varieties from which to choose. But you must plant bare-rooted berry plants when they are dormant. By early spring, you will have to buy and plant berry plants grown in containers.

Whether bare-rooted or in containers, make sure you purchase certified, virus-free stock. Virus-infected berries will not produce well or live as long as virus-free plants.



Raspberries

Raspberry roots and crowns are perennial and live for many years. The individual canes, however, live only two years.

The two major types of raspberries are *summer-bearing* and *fall-bearing*. *Summer-bearing raspberries* (sometimes called June-bearing) produce fruit on 2-year-old canes in June and July; those canes then die. *Fall-bearing raspberries* (sometimes called ever-bearing) produce a small crop of berries at the top of 1-year old canes in late summer or fall. In June and July of the following year, they bear fruit on the lower portion of those same canes (now 2-year-old canes) which then die soon after harvest.

Fall-bearing raspberries are not as flavorful as summer-bearing varieties. Most gardeners grow fall-bearing raspberries only for their fall crop and prune the canes out after the first year.

Raspberries come in several colors: red, yellow, black, and purple. Red and yellow raspberries are the hardiest. They produce new canes along their roots, thereby spreading rapidly. Yellow raspberries often are considered more flavorful than red raspberries, but the plants yield less and have a shorter lifespan because of greater problems with viruses. Red and yellow raspberries have both summer-bearing and fall-bearing varieties.

Recommended red and yellow varieties include:

Summer-bearing	Fall-bearing
Cascade Dawn	Autumn Bliss
Cascade Delight	Fall Gold
Chilliwack	Heritage
Meeker	Summit
Tulameen	
Willamette	

Black raspberries (sometimes called “black caps”) are less winter hardy than red and yellow raspberries. They reach maturity and start producing more quickly than red and yellow raspberries. Recommended varieties of black raspberries include Cumberland and Jewel

Purple raspberries (a cross between red and black raspberries) are most tolerant of drought, diseases, and pests. Recommended varieties include Brandywine and Royalty.

Neither black nor purple raspberries have fall-bearing varieties.

Raspberries are self-fruitful and do not need a cross-pollinator. Planting different colors as well as summer-bearing and fall-bearing varieties will extend the season for fresh berries. Of the summer-bearing varieties, red raspberries ripen earliest, followed by black and yellow, and then purple.

Blackberries

The roots and crowns of blackberries are perennial, but individual canes live for only two years.

The three major types of blackberries are *trailing*, *erect*, and *semi-erect*. *Trailing blackberries* have lengthy canes that trail along the ground and should be trained onto supports or trellises. Their fruit has an aromatic flavor and small seeds. They are the least cold hardy of the blackberry types.

Erect blackberries have stiff canes and are self-supporting; their fruit has a slightly bitter after-taste (often called an “eastern” flavor) and large

seeds. They tend to be more winter hardy and take up less space than trailing blackberries.

Semi-erect blackberries have stiffer canes but still need a trellis for support; their fruit has a milder flavor and large seeds.

All three types of blackberries have thornless varieties that make trellising and harvesting easier. Blackberries are self-fruitful and do not need a cross-pollinator.

Trailing	Semi-erect	Erect
Black Butte	Black satin*	Arapaho*
Cascade	Chester Thornless*	Cherokee
Kotata	Hull Thornless*	Navaho*
Marion	Triple Crown	Shawnee
Silvan		
Siskyou		
Waldo*	*Thornless	

