



C116

RASPBERRIES

Raspberries belong to the Rose family (*Rosaceae*) and to the genus *Rubus*, as do blackberries, and other cane berries. The plants have perennial roots, many living 40 or more years, while the upright canes are biennial. Fruiting canes die after harvest, but new canes (primocanes) growing from the root system to be next year's fruiting wood. The fruit is borne on lateral fruit spurs that are produced on 1-year-old canes.

SITE SELECTION

Plan to control weeds and build up soil tilth a year before planting. Consider planting a cover crop of cereal rye or barley in the planting site. This will both control weeds and add organic matter. Use between 2 to 2½ pounds of seed per 1000 square feet.

Plant raspberries in full sun. Plants grown in shade will remain small and produce tart fruit. Raspberries grow best in loam or sandy soil at least 24 inches deep. Dig in organic matter (compost or manure) 2 feet deep before planting

The soil should be well drained. Excessive soil moisture during the late winter when new roots are growing leads to root rot. If your soil is heavy and has a tendency to remain wet you may have a problem with raspberries. Consider using raised beds at least one foot high.

BUYING, PLANTING AND FERTILIZING NEW RASPBERRIES

Purchase dormant, certified plants at a garden store or nursery. Sucker plants dug from an established planting during the winter when plants are dormant often have virus diseases that can survive during transplanting.

Plant raspberries early in the spring as close to the 1st of April as possible. Do not use any planting stock that has started to bud out appreciably; it generally does not perform well.

Space plants 2-3 feet apart along a fence or trellis as described under training. Cut canes back to 2-inch stubs after planting. New canes will begin growing from the roots. (Containerized raspberry and blackberry canes do not need to be cut back)

Soon after the roots begin growing, apply 1 pound of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 25-foot row, or 4 pounds of (5-10-10) or (5-10-5) fertilizer. Apply in bands 6 inches from the plants and water in well.

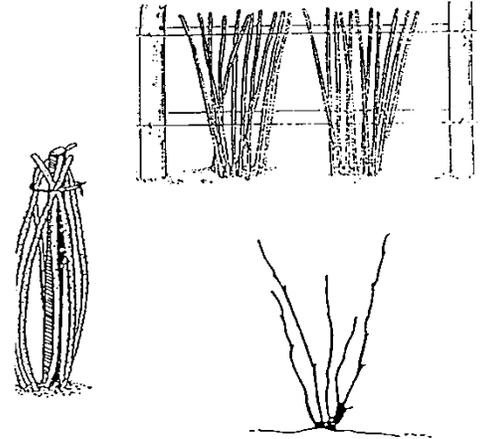
Visit our website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/master-gardener-program/home-lawn-and-garden/>
e-mail your garden questions to: mastergardener@spokanecounty.org

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

TRAINING

There are three methods of training raspberries: trellis, staked hill, or free-standing.

1. **Trellis** - Select sturdy posts and set them no more than 25 feet apart. Attach a #12 galvanized wire on both sides of posts 4½ feet from the ground. Attach two more wires to hooks on each side of the posts about 2 feet from the ground. All canes high enough to reach the upper wires should be tied in the fall of the first year.
2. **Staked hill** - Raspberries can be trained on a single post. Choose five or six of the sturdiest canes and tie to a post. Height of the post can be determined by the gardener, 4½ feet is suggested. Cut the smaller canes to ground level. Top when the canes reach the top of the post.
3. **Free-standing** - Red raspberries can be left free-standing by choosing 5 to 7 canes and heading back below 4½ feet.



TRAINING FALL-BEARING RED RASPBERRIES

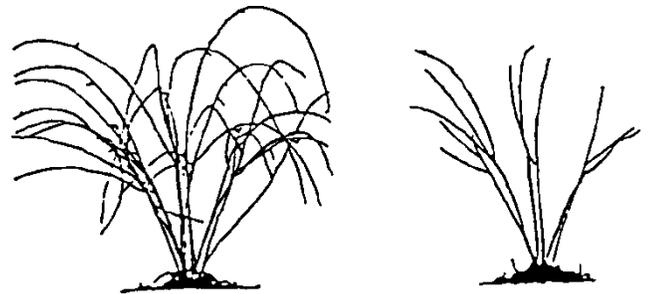
Fall-bearing raspberries bear fruit on the ends of new canes in late summer and fall, as well as on the lower portions of these canes the following year. However, fall-bearing red raspberries produce the largest fruit and are the easiest to manage if they are treated as a single crop in the fall. Mow the canes off at ground level each year after the fall crop is picked.

TRAINING BLACK RASPBERRIES

Black raspberries do not send up suckers between plants. New shoots arise from the base of each plant, and are stockier than red raspberry cane. Set plants 2 feet apart. Plant and fertilize as for red raspberries.

New canes should be encouraged to branch and form laterals by tipping when 30 inches high. The lateral shoots that develop after tipping will form many fruit buds.

Remove old canes soon after harvest each year. Lateral shoots on the new canes should be shortened in March to 6 to 12 inches.



TRAINING PURPLE RASPBERRIES

Brandywine - Train as black raspberries.

Royalty - Train as red raspberries.

CULTURE IN SECOND AND FOLLOWING YEARS

Pruning

Consistent pruning each year will keep plants from becoming tangled and will produce better fruit. Raspberries bear fruit on young new canes. After bearing fruit, canes become brown and dry and will not produce fruit again.

C116 - Raspberries

Cut old canes to ground level as soon as possible after berries are picked. This allows sun to reach the new canes. Keep 4-5 of the thickest new canes per hill and cut weakest canes (under pencil size) to the ground. Cut undesired suckers to ground level. Keep a maximum of 4 to 6 canes to a plant if trained as a hedge.

Before winter, tie the canes up to trellises or stakes. Cut the tops back enough to keep them from whipping in the wind. Cut these tips back to 5½ feet in March.

If you have recently moved into a home with raspberries and are not sure if the plants are June or fall-bearing, leave the plants alone until the following spring. Fall-bearing raspberries occasionally produce fruit on the lower portion of the cane during the spring. This may help identify which type you have.

Fertilizing

In March, apply bands of ½ pound ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or 2 pounds fertilizer (5-10-10) per 25-foot row. Apply again at the same rate near the end of April. If using other formulations or fertilizer, consult the label for rates for berries.

Harvesting and storage

Pick dry firm fruit as it reaches the peak of color and sugar development. Pick into very shallow containers early in the morning, when the berries are coolest but after the dew is off. Avoid picking wet fruit, as it will deteriorate quickly. Raspberries have a shelf life of only 2 - 3 days in the refrigerator. Wash or rinse just before using, serving or processing.

VARIETIES

A. Summer fruiting:

Canby	Hardest, very sensitive to wet soil, susceptible to virus.
Meeker	Least hardy, higher in sugar, best for flavor. Not suitable for poorly-drained sites.
Willamette	Hardy, dark red fruit, tart but good, excellent cooked.
Latham	Very hardy, poor quality and virus susceptible, not recommended.

B. Fall-bearing red raspberries (double-cropping):

Heritage	Very good, berries are large, firm, bright red. Vigorous canes need support.
Amity	Large firm fruit ripens earlier than Heritage.
Fallgold	Not very productive, soft but sweet yellow fruit.

C. Purple raspberries:

Brandywine	Large seedy fruit, fair to good.
Royalty	Large seedy fruit.

D. Black raspberries: Hardier than reds.

Munger is the most widely grown.

RASPBERRY DISEASES & PESTS

Management Options can be found at [WSU Hortsense](http://www.wsu.edu/hortsense)