

# Raspberries

## Gray Barn Green Thumb Guide



**Raspberries** are the taste of summer and also one of the most delicious of the berry crops. Raspberry plants are perennial. The base of the plant and the roots live for many years, but the canes are biennial. Summer-bearing raspberries grow canes the first year and produce fruit on them the next year in June and July. Fall-bearing or Everbearing raspberries will produce fruit on a first year cane from early August until frost, as well as the second year in June and July. After two years the canes die and need to be removed. Summer-bearing raspberries have better fruit quality and a higher yield.

### Planting

Soil should be well-drained with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. If the soil is too acidic, add lime to the soil as recommended by the soil test analysis. Add organic matter to improve soil aeration, drainage and water holding capacity. Plant raspberries so that the highest point where roots are attached to a cane is 1 to 2 inches below ground level. Cover with soil and press firmly to remove air pockets. Water well. Space plants 2 feet apart in rows about 8 to 10 feet apart. Allow new canes that develop to spread along the row, but don't let them spread wider than 12 inches (for easier picking). Plants will produce a full crop by their third year.

### Fertilizing

Fertilize with a complete organic fertilizer at planting time and then annually to maintain good growth and leaf color. Apply one third of the total fertilizer when canes begin to grow in the spring, one third at the end of May and the final third at the end of June. If using manure, apply in late fall or early winter.

### Cultivation

Keep the area weed free and control new canes that grow between rows or in aisles. Established raspberry plants need 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water each week from mid-June through early Fall. To avoid disease, avoid overhead watering. Summer-bearing red raspberries need support to hold the canes upright. Provide a fence or trellis system for this.

### Pruning

For **summer-bearing raspberries** remove old, dead second-year canes in late summer or fall. From January through March remove all weak, broken, diseased and insect-damaged canes. Tie up new canes to a support so they don't fall on the ground. For **everbearing raspberries** remove second year canes after harvesting the summer crop. The fall crop will grow on the new canes. When the plants are dormant, remove weak or damaged

canes and the tip portions of canes that fruited last fall. To grow this type of raspberry for only the fall crop, cut all canes to the ground in late March. If you have enough space, grow both types of berries, one for the summer crop and one for the fall crop.

## Raspberry Varieties

### Summer-bearing

Chilcotin  
Latham  
Meeker  
Tulameen  
Willamette

### Everbearing

Amity  
Autumn Bliss  
Caroline  
Fallgold  
Heritage

## Checklist for Establishing New Raspberries

- Choose a good site.
- Eliminate all perennial weeds before they go to seed.
- Choose cultivars suitable for your needs and site.
- Prepare the soil by applying organic matter and, if necessary, installing a drain tile and/or forming raised beds.
- Apply fertilizer and till the soil.
- Purchase certified disease-free plants.
- Plant in spring.
- Remove excess primocanes (suckers). Keep the row confined to a width of 12 inches or less.
- Irrigate as required.
- Build a trellis (especially for summer-bearing).

## Resources

The Berry Growers Companion by Barbara Bowler, 2005

Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden, OSU

<http://library.state.or.us/repository/2008/200805081436254/index.pdf>