

# Growing and Caring for Raspberries



Raspberries are the ultimate summertime fruit! Growing in red, yellow or purple/black colors, the delicious berries are borne on canes, which is easily harvested, by gently pulling them off their canes.

## Raspberry Types

There are two primary forms of raspberry; summer-bearing and everbearing.

- **Summer-bearing fruit** produce primocanes the first year after planting. These canes go dormant then turn into floricanes the next spring producing flowers and then fruit in early summer. Black/purple raspberries are typically summer-bearing raspberries.
- **Everbearing fruit** produces primocanes the first year which develop flowers and fruit in mid to late summer. Those canes will then turn into floricanes the 2<sup>nd</sup> year potentially producing a smaller yield in early summer. Red and yellow raspberry varieties are everbearing varieties.

## Planting Raspberries

Raspberry plants can live 5 to 15 years depending on the variety (summer-bearing are typically a shorter life span). When selecting a site to plant raspberries, keep in mind the long-life span of the plant. It is also important, to select a site with well draining soil, but moderate water holding capabilities. Full sun is best with a minimum of 6 hours of direct sunlight. Soils with higher pH (above 6.5) should be amended with elemental Sulphur. Soil tests will determine how much should be applied.

Space your plants 2-2.5' apart and if planting in rows leave 7-10' between rows to be able to work between them. Dig a shallow hole, spreading out the roots and burying the plant so where the roots and stem meet is 1-2" below the soil surface.



## Caring for Raspberries

- **Irrigation**- raspberries require frequent irrigation to thrive. While establishing plants, if no rain has fallen water frequently enough water to keep the roots hydrated, After establishment 1 to 1.5" of water per week is needed for proper growth.
- **Trellising**- it is best to grow raspberries on trellis'. The type of trellis depends on the type of raspberry. T-trellises are the most popular.
- **Fertilizing**- healthy plants are required to fight off disease and still be able to produce high yields, therefore, fertilizer is required. Typical garden fertilizers with formulations around 14-14-14 is sufficient when applied at label directions. New plantings should be given partial applications throughout the season as the full dose of fertilizer can be detrimental to the small plants.
- **Pruning**- maintenance is required of these very aggressive plants. Throughout the season remove canes that grow between plants and rows. Summer-bearing floricanes should be pruned out after harvest as they are dying. Everbearing plants should be treated the same if achieving a double crop system. If a single crop is desired, prune off all canes in late winter leaving 6-8".
- **Insecticides** - if insects are prevalent, this may be needed to keep your fruit in harvestable condition.