



J&L's Gardening Handouts

Tips and Suggestions for Year Round Gardening

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Raspberries & Blackberries

Red raspberries, yellow raspberries, blackcap raspberries, and blackberries are all very closely related and belong to the rose family. Botanists separate the raspberries from the blackberries by determining if the core stays in the ripe fruit, or if the core is lost during picking. Berries with the core intact are blackberries and berries that lose their core are raspberries. A few berries are a cross between blackberries and raspberries, such as Loganberry and Tayberry. Blackberries aren't as popular as Raspberries, but they are just as delicious.



Although blackberries and raspberries are closely related they are quite different in their growth habits. Blackberries generally grow long, trailing canes and spread when the tips of their canes grow roots when they come in contact with the soil. Red and yellow raspberries generally grow upright canes and spread from underground roots. Blackcap raspberries grow upright, arching canes and grow in clumps. They spread when their arching canes touch the ground and produce new roots.

Primocane: First Year Shoots. These are the green shoots that emerge every spring, that mature into a woody-textured cane by late fall.

Floricanes: Second Year Shoots. This is the flowering cane that will produce fruit, and was a primocane in the previous growing season.

Planting Raspberries

Plant raspberries very shallow, making sure the roots are just barely covered with soil. Raspberries planted too deeply have a hard time "breathing" and the roots sometimes don't have enough strength to send up new shoots.



Prune newly planted raspberries four to six inches tall. By pruning them short you prevent excessive top growth that the roots may not be able to support during the summer. New shoots from the roots should appear within four or five weeks.

Water newly planted raspberries frequently the first two months to keep them moist at all times, but do not let them stand in water. As the plants get older water them less frequently but water them deeply. Raspberries do not like to be watered every day.

Space raspberries 2 feet apart in the rows. Keep the rows narrow enough that the berries are easy to harvest. Space your rows far enough apart so you can walk between them comfortably. Your raspberries will take as much space as you want them to, and probably more.

Raspberries grow best in a light, sandy, well-drained soil. Mix plenty of **Bumper Crop, well-rotted Manure or Compost** in the soil when you first plant them. Mulch helps to lighten the soil and helps to retain moisture. Raspberries are hard to grow in heavy clay soils, or in soils that stay wet. If you have a heavy clay soil, try growing raspberries in raised beds, otherwise you may have a hard time keeping your berry plants healthy.



Raspberries like to be kept moist, especially as the fruit is ripening, but they do not like to be kept wet. If raspberries are kept too wet for long periods of time, the roots are not able to absorb iron from the soil and the leaves start to turn yellow from lack of iron. Iron chlorosis in raspberries is a common



problem, especially in plants grown in clay soils. Plants that are iron deficient are weak; they produce small fruit of poor quality; and the plants often die from insect or disease problems.

Fertilizing Raspberries

Fertilize newly planted raspberries with **Dr. Earth Root Starter**. Other than root starter, raspberry plants do not need any fertilizer the first year.



After the first year, fertilize raspberries every spring with **16-16-8 Multi Purpose Fertilizer**. Use about 1 cup of this fertilizer per 10 foot row. Watch the growth rate of your plants to determine if you have fertilized correctly.



If your plants have good, thick stems that grow 4 to 6 feet tall, you are fertilizing correctly. If the canes grow 8 to 10 feet tall, you are fertilizing them too much. Canes that only grow 2 or 3 feet tall indicates a lack of fertilizer. Adjust the amount of fertilizer accordingly. The best time to fertilize raspberries is in March or early-April.

Always include iron with your fertilizing program. Raspberries need plenty of iron to keep their leaves green. An iron deficiency makes the leaves turn yellow but the veins remain green. You may need to apply extra iron every year or two to keep your plants healthy. Granular iron is a good way to prevent an iron deficiency but you may have you use a liquid iron if your plants already have a problem and they need fast results.



If you have clay soil, a wet soil, or an alkaline soil, you will definitely need to watch for iron problems.

The best iron for alkaline soil conditions is either **Grow More EDDHA Iron** or **Miller's Ferri Plus Iron**. This form of iron will remain available for plants to use in the soil for an extended period of time. Other forms of iron may only be available for a few weeks before the soil ties the iron up so the plant cannot absorb it. The best time for application is in either September or May. However, if you notice problems mid-season, you don't have to wait until fall to begin to correct it.



Pruning Raspberries

There are two categories of Raspberries, the common 'June Bearing' raspberry, which ripens in early to midsummer, and the so called 'Everbearing' Raspberry.

Unlike everbearing Strawberries, which produce fruit continuously over the summer, **everbearing raspberries** produce an **early-summer crop** on the floricanes (previous-season's-growth), and a **fall crop** on the primocanes (current-season's-growth).

June bearing raspberries only produce fruit in the early-summer, on floricanes (two years old) canes. The canes grow the first year without producing any fruit, then produce fruit the second year.

If new canes grow extremely long or spindly, cut them off at three to five feet tall in the fall; to prevent winter breakage. These canes will then bear fruit the next spring; late June. After the June harvest, cut these bearing canes to the ground. Let the new canes continue to grow for next year's berry crop. **They will not produce another crop later in the year.**

Everbearing raspberries produce a crop of berries in the spring (June) and another crop in the fall (September).

The fall berries are produced and ripen on the canes that grew during the current year. Prune these new canes, after harvest, to about three to five feet tall. Pruning the new canes makes them stronger, and helps to eliminate any snow breakage. These are the canes that will produce a crop of berries the next spring; in late June.

After these second year canes produce their June crop, cut them right to the ground. Let the new canes that have just started to grow, continue to grow and produce berries this coming fall.

If you don't remove the old canes they will continue to produce berries, however, the berries will not be as large and sweet.

Spidermites, cane girdlers, and other insects are also attracted to the older canes, so, it is best remove all the old canes as soon as you can after harvest.

You don't have to wait until fall to remove dead or broken canes. Remove any diseased, damaged or dead canes as soon as you see them; spring, summer or fall. Weak canes attract insects and diseases.

Everbearing raspberries may also be pruned in a different manner. You may cut all the canes to the ground each fall; be sure to wait until after the harvest.

If you prune everbearing raspberries in this manner you will lose your spring crop of berries, but your fall crop of berries will be much larger. You only have to prune your raspberries once a year using this method.

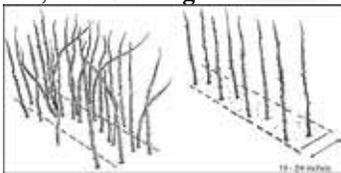
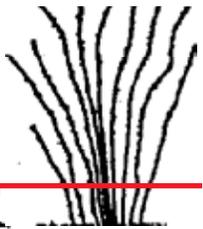


Photo Credit: ext-Missouri-edu-RaspberryPruning.jpg



Insect Pests

Pesticide labels and recommendations may change. Be sure to read the label before using any product, don't rely on your memory. The label should state that the insecticide may be used on raspberries, or generally on fruit. Raspberries are sometimes referred to as 'cane berries' on some insecticide labels.

Use pesticides with care, pesticides are poisonous. Apply them only to plants, or sites listed on the label. When mixing and applying pesticides, follow all label precautions to protect yourself and others around you. It is a violation of the law to disregard

label directions. Store pesticides in their original containers and keep them out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock.

Check the label to find out how much of each chemical you should use. If a label says to use 1 tablespoon per gallon of water, then use 1 tablespoon per gallon of water; not two or three.

Raspberries have several insect problems. Two of the most common insect pests are **Spidermites** and **Raspberry Cane Girdler**. **Spidermites** are tiny mites (they are not really insects, they are spiders). These spidermites live on the leaves and suck chlorophyll from the leaves, turning the leaves yellow or brown.

The best prevention for spidermites is to water and fertilize your plants properly, prune correctly, and to spray with a **Dormant Spray** early in the spring. Apply **Dormant Spray** as soon as the leaves begin to emerge. The spray oil smothers any eggs that may be on the canes, and kills any insects that may be on the plant. Spray the surrounding plants as well, spidermites can move a great distance.

The best control for spidermites during the summer is to remove the infected wood and spray with a high pressure jet of water. You can also spray with **Insecticidal Soap, Bifenthrin, Malathion** or **Spinosad** (read the label to find out how long you must wait to harvest the berries after spraying). You may have to spray several times during the summer to completely control spidermites. Make sure you follow all label directions and wait the required time period after spraying before you harvest and eat the berries.

The **Raspberry Cane Girdler** is a small beetle that kills the tips of new canes. This beetle lives in the soil, and in the old canes, through the winter. In the spring the adult females chew two zipper-like rings around the tips of raspberry primocanes and lay an egg between the punctures. The eggs hatch and the larvae eat directly into the canes. During the summer, the tips of the canes die. The death of these new tips keep the plants from growing the way they should. It is especially damaging to the fall crop of everbearing raspberries.

Fall cultivation and pruning is the best prevention for this insect. To control this insect during the spring, spray with a **Dormant Spray** just as the leaves begin to form. You will have to spray again with **Malathion, Permethrin, Bifenthrin**, or another product registered for raspberries, every 10 to 14 days from the beginning of May until the flowers begin to appear. Other recommended insecticides, that have low toxicity to humans, include neem oil and spinosad.

Do not spray while the plants are blooming; you may kill the bees. You can spray again after the berry plants have finished blooming, if you need to. Do not spray too close to harvest. The insecticide label will indicate how long you must wait before harvesting the fruit.

When the berries are close to ripening, the best control for the cane girdler is to physically remove any infected canes at least one inch below the bottom ring. Put the infected canes in a plastic bag and discard them immediately.

The **raspberry cane girdler** also infects blackberries and roses, so be sure to spray your rose garden while you are spraying your raspberry patch. Please read our **Raspberry Cane Girdler Control Sheet** for more information about this insect problem.



Photo Credit: extension-usu-edu-RaspberryCaneGirdler.jpg



Photo Credit: cornell-edu-raspberry-RaspberryCaneGirdler.jpg

Raspberry Varieties

Canby Raspberry is a very good **Spring Crop** raspberry. It produces large, firm, sweet berries. The canes are mostly thornless, making this variety easy to pick. The canes grow five to six feet tall. They are good sturdy canes. This variety does not grow well in heavy or wet soil conditions. Canby is one of the several varieties grown in the Bear Lake Valley.



Boyne Raspberry This is an excellent **Spring Crop** raspberry variety. It is much more vigorous than canby. The Boyne Raspberry is an attractive red raspberry with a delicious sweet flavor, making it an excellent choice for fresh eating, canning, freezing and desserts.



Caroline Raspberry is a large, well-flavored, everbearing, red raspberry. It is more disease resistant and has earlier fruits than many everbearing varieties (ripens 7 to 10 days earlier than Heritage). It also has sweeter fruits than most red raspberries.



Heritage Raspberry is an excellent everbearing raspberry. It produces a large crop of big, sweet raspberries in late spring and again in early fall. The berries are excellent for jams, bottling, and freezing. This variety is very hardy and easy to grow. It is one of the best varieties grown in the Bear Lake Valley.



Fall Gold Raspberry is a yellow everbearing raspberry. It produces medium sized, sweet raspberries late spring and again in early fall. The berries have a good flavor fresh and they make good yellow jam. Fall Gold is not a heavy producer. This variety is excellent to add something different to the garden



Black Raspberries (Blackcap Raspberry)

Blackcap raspberries grow in clumps rather than spreading by underground suckers, making them a little easier to control than red raspberries. They have a rich, sweet taste. The berries are firm and not overly juicy. When you eat them fresh, their texture is a little thicker than red raspberries or blackberries. Plant blackcap raspberries three to five feet apart.



Pruning Black Raspberries

Black raspberries are pruned very differently than red raspberries. Black raspberries grow on canes that grew the previous year. Because of this, you will want to train and prune your new raspberry canes for optimal production the following year. Pruning your black raspberry bush is not difficult.

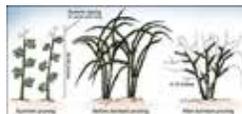


Photo Credit: ext-missouri-edu-BlackRaspberryPruning.jpg

Cut the lateral branches back to eight to ten inches in the spring. This will encourage good new growth and minimize energy and nutrient use by non-fruit-producing branches.

Tip prune new canes by removing the top two to three inches of new growth in mid-summer. If you are growing your black raspberries without supports, tip prune them when they reach 24 inches high.

Prune out the canes that have produced fruit right after harvest by clipping them off near the ground. Black raspberries produce fruit on a floricanes; the previous year's growth. Your summer pruning and preparation will affect the canes that will carry next year's raspberry crop.

Cumberland Blackcap Raspberry is a good black raspberry. They have firm and very seedy berries. The berries have a distinctive flavor and make good jam.



Munger Black Raspberry. Enjoy the best characteristics of black raspberries, but with fewer seeds. These large, firm, juicy berries are great for making jams or jellies, or eating fresh. Cold-tolerant. Ripens in August. Self-pollinating.



Black Raspberry Jewel

Vigorous and erect, Large berries of excellent flavor. Black raspberries are the first raspberries to ripen in the spring. Excellent eaten fresh, as well as in pies and preserves. The most disease resistant of all black raspberries. Ripens early.



Blackberries

There are two different types of blackberries; upright and trailing. Each type requires a different pruning method. The upright ones produce arching canes that can support themselves. Included in this group are the semi-uprights, which flop a bit but can still be treated just like the uprights. The trailing types have weak canes that sprawl and must be supported on wires.



The two groups also bear their fruit differently: upright kinds have fruit at the tips of the canes; trailing kinds have berries all along their length. The trailing types tend to be less hardy than the uprights, but they are usually more productive. Blackberries are less cold hardy than Raspberries, but they can withstand more heat.

Planting and Fertilizing Blackberries

Plant blackberries in good, fertile soil eight to ten feet apart. You can plant upright blackberries closer together if you want. Make sure you have a fence or trellis for them to grow on, or they will take over your entire garden.

Blackberries sucker profusely. Each spring, rototill the perimeter of the planting to eliminate all suckers that have grown outside the row. Remove or transplant suckers that develop during the season.

Water and fertilize blackberries similar to red raspberries. Keep them moist, especially during the ripening season. Watch the rate of growth to determine their fertilizer needs, blackberries do not need very much fertilizer. Blackberries are very easy to grow and require very little care, other than pruning to keep them under control.

If any plants begin to develop misshapen leaves get rid of them immediately. If the plants begin to produce small berries, consider replacing all the plants. Usually, plants deteriorate prematurely because of virus diseases. There is no cure for virus diseases. Viruses are carried by sucking insects that feed on infected plants.

If a thornless variety starts producing thorny canes, remove that cane immediately; below the soil surface. A thorny cane may start to take over the area and the thornless canes may start to die out.



Pruning Trailing Blackberries

Trailing Blackberries produce long, trailing vines. The vines may grow six to ten feet each year. Blackberry canes are biennial which means the cane grows the first year without blooming, then the cane blooms and produces fruit the second year. That cane

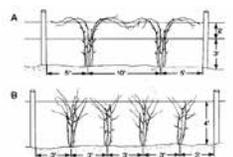


Photo Credit: ces-ncsu-edu-BlackberryPruning.gif

won't produce fruit again, but it will produce more canes that can produce fruit. The old canes should be pruned out as soon as possible, to keep the blackberry plants under control.

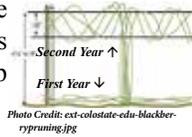


Photo Credit: ext-colostate-edu-blackberrypruning.jpg

Trailing blackberries may be trained and pruned in several different methods. One method is not better than another, it just depends on which method is easiest for your garden.

One way to train blackberries is to let all the new canes stay on the ground the first year. Early in the spring of the second year, lift all these canes off the ground and wrap them on a trellis or fence to let them produce fruit. Let the new canes stay on the ground. After harvesting the berries in the fall, cut all the fruiting canes to the ground and repeat the process each year.



Photo Credit: og-vic-gov-au-BlackberryTraining.jpg

Another method to prune blackberries is to train all the canes to grow one direction one year, and have them grow the opposite direction the second year. All the fruit will be on the canes that are two years old. Each fall completely remove all the fruiting canes, making room for the new canes next spring.

Pruning Upright Blackberries

With upright blackberries, the key to success is correctly managing the primocanes, to produce the correct growth habit. Cane management includes pruning both during the growing season, and during the dormant season.

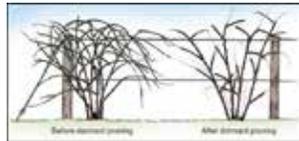


Photo Credit: ext-missouri-edu-BlackberryPruning.jpg

Start training primocanes during the plant's second year. In their first growing season, the plants should need no pruning because first-year growth of upright blackberries is rather bushy. More erect canes will begin to develop the second year.

In winter, or early spring, remove weak canes, and leave 4 or 5 of the most vigorous canes (1/2" or more in diameter) per plant. Plants can be every 18" to 24" apart in the row.

Thin out and cut back lateral canes (lateral canes are those that grow horizontally from vertical canes); leave the lateral canes about 15 inches long with about 15 buds each.

Summer pruning is training, because you trim the primocanes, to control their size and shape. Summer training is a simple process that doesn't take long, but if you don't do it, your plants will grow leggy and possibly won't stand upright.

Tip prune the primocanes back at a height of 40 to 46 inches. Do this two or three times during the summer. This causes lateral branches to grow, which results in more fruit the next season.

Primocanes continue to develop and grow during most of the growing season, which is why you must cut them back a few times each summer. This is the only cutting you should need to do on primocanes during the growing season.

Floricanes die after they finish fruiting. As soon as fruiting is completed, remove all the canes that bore fruit. You can remove them any time after harvest, cutting them right at ground level.

To keep your blackberry patch from getting too wide, remove any canes growing outside of the area you have allotted them.

Blackberry Varieties

Chester Thornless Blackberry This variety produces medium size, high quality fruit. The vines do not spread as rapidly as other varieties. It will not tolerate extreme cold winters well. The vines have few, if any thorns, making the berries very easy to pick. Remove any canes that may revert to thorns.



Marion Blackberry This variety produces large berries with excellent flavor. (1.5 inches long and .75 inches thick) This is the most popular blackberry. It is very hardy variety in cold areas. It produces extremely vigorous, fast growing vines with lots of thorns. The fruit has lots of seeds and makes great jams, jellies, syrup and juice. It is often used to make pies.



Prime Arc Blackberry. Erect canes make it easy to pick these firm, blackberries. Fruit stores well. Plants are hardy, disease-resistant and cold-tolerant. First-year canes produce fruit which begins ripening in mid July, while second-year canes bear heaviest crops in June. Both canes continue to fruit until frost. This variety does not need to be trellised, but it does need to be pruned to be kept within bounds.



Ollalie Blackberry. This variety has large, shiny black, firm berries. They have a good, sweet flavor with some wild blackberry flavor. They are good for jam or eating fresh from the vine. This variety in not very cold hardy, and does not always survive the winter.



Thornless Boysenberry. Boysenberries are large, reddish purple berries. They are very productive plants. This variety has fast growing vines with few, if any, thorns. Remove any thorny canes immediately. The plant is hardy even in cold winters. The berries soft and semi-sweet. They are great for jam, juice, syrup, and for making pies.



Dewberry. They have a low, vine-like growth habit and rarely reaches heights greater than 2 feet without trellising. It is very thorny. The seeds are much larger and tougher than those in other blackberries.



Loganberry. The plant has leaves like a raspberry, fruit-appearance of a blackberry, and a flavor that is truly a marriage of the two. Thorned loganberry plants have spines (like raspberry), not spikes (like blackberry). Loganberry fruit is large and elongated. It becomes dark, bright-red when it ripens completely.



Tayberry. It is a delicious cross between a raspberry and a blackberry. The fruit is semi-sweet, large reddish-purple, and aromatic. It makes wonderful jams, pies and wines; or is delicious eaten as fresh fruit. The plant grows like blackberries. It is not always winter hardy in Utah.



Triple Crown. It is named for its three attributes; flavor, productivity and vigor. This variety offers two other attributes; disease resistance and very large berries. This thornless blackberry has semi-erect, canes. It can be trellised, or pruned in summer, to an easy picking height of 48".



Fun Facts

The Ollalieberry is a cross between the Loganberry and the Youngberry. The Loganberry is a cross between the Blackberry and Raspberry. The Youngberry is a cross between the Blackberry and Dewberry.

Jostaberry This is a currant and gooseberry cross. The dark colored berries are three times the size of a currant. They are very high in vitamin C. They can produce 10-15 pounds of fruit per plant. Grows to 8' tall. Plant two to insure pollination.



More Resources:

- <http://www.weeksberry.com/berryfiles/files/WBNBlackberry.pdf>
- <http://www.weeksberry.com/berryfiles/files/Raspberry%20Active.pdf>
- <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/SP284-G.pdf>
- <http://www.botany.com/rubus.html>
- <http://www.sdedible.org/blackberry-care--cultivars.html>