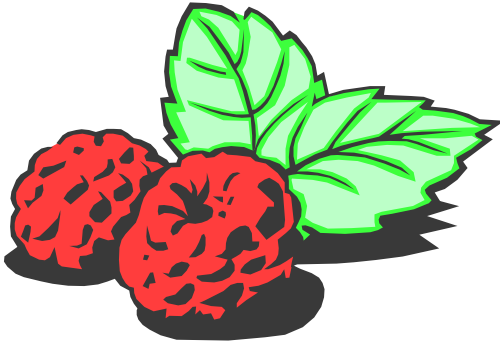




Time and Hints to Take Home

Raspberries



fresh berries in season and some to store away for winter goodies.

Raspberries are one of the most commonly grown backyard fruits. A modest sized patch will provide both

Site Selection and Preparation: Raspberries need full sun and well-drained, rich soil. Select a site where they can grow undisturbed for many years. Do a good job of preparing the bed. Your raspberries will more productive for more years if you start them off right. Enrich even good soil with a generous amount of compost. Improve soil down at least 2' and 2' wide too.

Raspberries need a sturdy support system. They need to be upright to allow sun to reach all the way down the canes for good fruit production. Plant Land recommends a two-wire 'box' system. At the end of each row, set 6' high posts across the end, 18" apart. You are making corners of a long rectangular box. String heavy gauge wire (baling wire is fine) around each corner 18" from the ground going from post to post to make a box. String another line the same way about 4' off the ground. Your canes then grow inside this box and are supported by the wires, generally without any need for tying up. The wires will need to be tightened every few years. Make any additional rows 4-6' apart.

Raspberries come as bare root canes. Buy at least 3 canes for each person in the household for fresh eating and twice as many if you plan to make jellies or freeze berries for winter eating. Handle the canes carefully after you purchase them. It is important they **DO NOT DRY OUT**. When you get them home, soak the canes in water for at least an hour before planting.

If you will be planting them within 24 hours, simply place them in a bucket of water.

Plant canes 2-3' apart and bury them about an inch deeper than the crown (the spot where the stem stops and the roots begin). Cut off the top 4" of each cane to encourage growth. You will not get fruit the first season. The most commonly sold raspberries are *biennial*. That means they produce fruit on canes they send out the previous year. Do not prune your raspberries for the first two seasons. The newly planted canes will produce new fruit bearing canes for the next year. The second year, new canes will come in next to the fruiting canes and these new canes will produce the third year. In the spring of the third year, you prune out the canes that produced fruit the previous year. They are easy to spot, they usually have fruit pods left on them. When a row becomes crowded with too many new canes, you can dig out the plants in spring and thin the row down. You may not have to do this for many years.

Raspberries benefit from heavy watering while they are fruiting and good watering for the remaining season to get good cane growth for the next year. Top-dressing rows with compost each spring also can boost harvests. Do not use high nitrogen formulas. We recommend simple 16-16-16. Mulch is recommended for both weed suppression and to help retain moisture.

Black raspberries can be planted as freestanding patches, without elaborate supports. They will spread over time and should be given a large space accordingly. Plan on at least 5-6' wide in just a few years.

Our recommendations of varieties for the valley are on the reverse of this sheet.

Red Raspberries

Canby: This variety was developed in Oregon and introduced in 1953. It is a thorn-less red berry and a heavy bearer with large, good flavored, firm and juicy berries. It is one of the best in the Northwest for freezing, canning, cooking and fresh eating. The canes are vigorous and productive. Canby does show a higher level of virus resistance and aphid immunity but is very sensitive to root rot so good soil drainage is required. It is Zone 4 and may not be suitable for all parts of the valley. It is considered early fruiting.

Yellow Raspberries

Fall Gold: This everbearing raspberry is a golden yellow variety that produces two full crops each year. You will have a spring crop and then a second crop in July-August, right up until a hard frost. The fruit is very sweet and juicy. The firm and extra large conical berries are borne in large clusters. Excellent for all purposes but especially for fresh eating. It is a **Zone 4** so it may not be appropriate for all areas of the valley.

Black Raspberries

Munger: This variety resembles regular red raspberry in many ways, but the blue-black fruits are firmer and seedier with a distinctive flavor. Plants differ from red raspberries, as they do not sucker from the roots. New plants form when arching cane tips root in soil. You can encourage this by bending cane tips over. You do not need to support black raspberries. At the end of the growing season, cut out weak canes and canes that fruited during the current season. In early spring, cut back lateral branches to 10-15" on the strong canes and 3-4" on the weak ones. Fruit is produced on side shoots from the laterals. **Zone 3.**