



Sierra View Nursery Inc.

Raspberry Care

Raspberries prefer a deep, well-drained, fertile soil. They are deep rooted, and thus need good drainage. Keeping this in mind, raspberries are a very versatile plant, most varieties being hardy in the coldest climates where other cane fruits would fail.

Planting

Raspberries should be planted in the spring or late winter. They are usually spaced 2-3 feet in the row and 8-10 feet between the rows. Keep the crown of the root ball at the same level as the ground. The plant, as purchased from the nursery, may be cut back a few inches, as most of the growth will arise from the roots or from the base of the planted cane.

Watering

During the growing season raspberries require frequent irrigations so that they are always moist. Raspberry plants require approximately 1 to 2 inches of water per week from mid-May through October. It is best to always keep the plants moist without saturating the soil and rotting the roots. In general, irrigate twice a week, wetting the entire root system with each irrigation. However, during the fruiting stage or during hot and windy conditions, greater amounts and more frequent applications of water should be applied. Overhead irrigation promotes fruit rot and leaf diseases, so is not recommended for raspberries. When using drip irrigation, raspberries should be watered every day for 1 to 2 hours, longer in hot weather or when fruit is ripening. Mulching with a 2-3" layer of *Walk-On Supreme Mulch* will help retain moisture and prevent weeds.

Pruning

Often only the shoots of suckers that start close to the original plant are allowed to grow, thus the canes are kept grouped together in the so-called hill. However, the home gardener may wish to let the hills grow together, thereby conserving space in the garden. Unwanted suckers arising too far from the mother plant may be removed as they appear. After the first year when the raspberries are dormant, thin out the weaker or damaged canes leaving yourself 4 to 6 strong canes per hill.

Spring Crop raspberries fruit on two-year-old wood. After harvest, the two-year-old fruiting wood begins to die and can be removed. The one-year-old canes that are left can then be thinned the following winter to remove the weaker canes, and those selected to remain for the next summers crop can be cut back to head height. Usually at least seven to ten canes are left per hill.

Everbearing raspberries are handled much the same except that they fruit in the fall on one-year-old canes. The fruit will appear on the top foot or so of the cane, and it is a common practice to remove the portion of the cane that fruited after harvest, leaving the rest of the cane to produce next summer crop. The everbearing raspberry thus produces a summer crop on two-year-old wood and a fall crop on one year old wood. As with

the spring crop raspberries, the two-year-old canes die and are removed after the harvest or during the following winter.

Training

Red raspberries can be supported either with tall stakes or ideally with a two-wire trellis. The wires of the trellis are usually placed about one foot below the height at which the canes have been pruned. The wires are placed on each side of the post with large staples or nails. Sometimes crosspieces are nailed to the posts so that the two wires are 12 to 15 inches apart. A second set of wires may sometimes be placed a few feet below the top wires. The canes can be tied to the top set of wires. Certain varieties may need no support at all.

Fertilizing

Raspberries need an acidic fertilizer and benefit from high organic content in soils. Organic matter promotes drainage in heavy soils and increases the moisture-holding capacity of sandy soil. For new berry plants (1-2 years old), prepare transplant hole and mix ½ cup with the backfill soil. Use amended soil to fill in around the new plant and water in well. To feed established berries, apply 1 cup per plant in early spring. Repeat application when blooms appear and again in Fall at half strength.