



# Raspberry Growing Information

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## **Cultural Requirements**

Raspberries prefer a deep, well drained, fertile soil. Raspberries are susceptible to root rot so it is essential to provide good drainage. Produce best when planted in full sun.

## **Fertilization**

Raspberries benefit from high organic content in the soil. Organic matter promotes drainage in heavy soil and provides nutrients for optimum plant growth. Adding compost or worm castings to your soil at planting time and then each following year will improve the overall quality of the soil and allow the raspberries to thrive. Although not as much as blueberries, raspberries do prefer a more acidic soil and can benefit from an application of Down-to-Earth Acid Mix at time of planting and then each subsequent spring.

## **Planting Instructions**

Raspberries should be planted in late winter or spring. Spacing of your raspberries is recommended at 18 inches between the plants and 5 to 6 feet between the rows. Plant raspberries about one inch deeper than the plant grew in the nursery.

## **Pruning and Training**

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 pruned out as they appear.

Florican (summer bearing) 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 summer's crop can be cut back to head height. Usually at least seven to ten canes are left per hill.

Primocane (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's 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 one-crop raspberry, the two year old canes die and are removed after the harvest or during the following winter.