

Check your plants immediately after receiving them. The raspberries have been sent as dormant canes and therefore will not be leafed out yet. Please remove the raspberry canes from their box as soon as possible, and store in a cool, moist (but not in standing water) area (30-40°F) until you are ready to plant. Transplant them outside as soon as possible.

TYPES OF RASPBERRIES: There are two types of raspberries. It is important to note the differing cultural information for the raspberries Johnny's offers.

Summer bearing (Floricanes) types: Summer bearing raspberries produce fruit only on second year canes (floricanes). First year canes (primocanes) must remain intact throughout the winter so that a crop can be produced the following summer. During the time the second year canes are fruiting, first year canes are forming in preparation for the following year's crop.

Everbearing (Primocane) types: Everbearing raspberries bear fruit on the tops of first year canes (primocanes). If allowed to over winter, the canes will also produce a second small crop the next spring. This is the easiest type of raspberry to care for.

GENERAL GROWING INFORMATION: Raspberries perform best in full sun, with good air movement and fertile, very well drained soil. Soil that remains water saturated can result in winter injury or disease problems. If your site is poorly drained, consider using raised beds. Raspberries prefer soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Proper soil moisture is important during the establishment year and drip irrigation is recommended. Mulch to keep the soil evenly moist and to prevent weeds.

PLANTING: Adequate spacing is important for best yields. Beds should be 3-4' wide, with paths between the beds a minimum of 8' wide. This spacing allows the plants to fill in the bed, and allows room for mowing equipment in the paths. The paths can be planted with grass or other cover crops such as clover or can be mulched with bark or straw. Space plants 28-36" apart in the row. Spread the roots laterally from the stem when planting, and plant only as deep as the roots are; about 1" up the stem.

SPECS: 5 plants per bunch. Approximately 38 plants/100-foot row, or 2,047 plants/acre at 32" spacing, rows 8' apart.

WEED CONTROL: Weed control for raspberries is important for best yields and plant health. We recommend that you plant your raspberries in an area that has already been tilled and weeded. After planting, cultivate weekly to control weeds while the raspberries are establishing themselves. Mulching with straw or bark is one method of controlling weeds.

PRUNING: Proper pruning is an important part of a successful raspberry harvest. See below for separate information regarding Summer bearing and Everbearing raspberry types.

Summer (Floricanes) types: Summer bearing raspberries produce fruit only on second year canes. There are several ways to prune and trellis summer bearing raspberries:

No mowing or suppression of first year canes: This system is traditionally used in the Northeast. Plants are allowed to form primocanes, overwinter, and then produce berries on the old canes as well as from new canes the following summer. The floricanes are cut to the ground immediately after harvest, leaving the primocanes intact. The remaining canes are thinned to 3-4 per square foot.

Alternate year mowing: Reduce interference from first year canes by mowing every other year during the dormant season. In the spring after mowing, primocanes will emerge and grow. The following year, the floricanes will fruit. After fruiting ends and the plants are dormant, the entire planting is mowed again. This method reduces time and effort, but also reduces yields and lengthens the time between crops, as only half of the planting is fruiting during any given year.

Partial suppression of first year canes: Yield can be increased without suppressing all the primocanes. Removing all but four or five primocanes per linear foot will increase yield and fruit quality.

Everbearing (Primocane) types: Everbearing raspberries bear fruit on the tops of first year canes.

Single Crop Pruning: In early spring, cut all of the canes to the ground. New canes will form and produce fruit late in the season. In warmer climates, an even later crop can be obtained by mowing the young canes a second time when they are about one foot tall.

Two Crop Pruning: This method allows the fruiting primocanes to overwinter and produce a small crop the next spring. It is not recommended, as the second year canes will interfere with the growth of the higher yielding new primocanes.

TRELLISING: A good trellising system can improve yield and ease of harvest. Raspberries can be grown with no trellis, but will need to be topped or cut back to prevent canes from breaking. Since many of the fruit buds are on the top half of the cane, topping a plant can reduce the productivity of the planting. Below are recommended trellis systems for the two types of raspberries.

Summer (Floricanes) types: Competition from primocanes can be reduced by using a system that separates the fruiting canes from vegetative canes. V-trellising is the most widely used form of trellis for summer raspberries. In a V-trellis system, posts are placed at a 20-30 degree angle along the outer margins of the planting bed. The tops of the posts should be about 3 ½' off the ground. Wires are then strung along the length of the bed. Fruiting canes are tied to wires on the outside of the V while primocanes are able to grow in the center of the bed. Harvesting and caring for the floricanes is easier because they are more accessible at the edge of the bed.

Everbearing (Primocane) types: Primocane fruiting raspberries tend to lean and break due to their top-heavy canes. A temporary trellis can be erected for use during the fruiting season. T-trellises are the most popular form of trellising raspberries. The posts can be metal or wood, are about 7 feet tall, with a three foot cross arm at the top of the posts (about 3 ½' off the ground). The posts are set in holes in the center of the bed, about 12-25 feet apart in the row. Twine is run between the posts and is attached to either side of the cross bar at the tops of the posts. After harvest, the twine and posts can be removed so that the canes can be mowed the following spring. Home gardeners may wish to leave the posts in the ground permanently and prune around them.

DISEASES AND PESTS: Raspberries are susceptible to a number of insects and diseases. Johnny's offers a technical sheet titled Raspberry Pests and Diseases. You may request that it be sent to you, or visit <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/Assets/Information/RaspberryPestsandDiseases.pdf> to view and download a copy. Contact your local Cooperative Extension service or a raspberry culture guide for more information.

HARVEST: Beginning the 2nd year for Summer Fruiting varieties. Everbearing varieties will bear a small crop during their 1st year, with full yields beginning the 2nd year. Raspberries for fresh eating are almost always harvested by hand, as they do not ripen uniformly enough to machine harvest. Keep berries cool after harvest, and be careful not to crush them. Raspberries are stored easily by freezing whole.

RESOURCES FOR RASPBERRY GROWERS:

Pritts, Marvin and Handley, David. Bramble Production Guide. Natural Resource,
Agriculture and Engineering Service

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