



Raspberry Culture Tips

Raspberries ripen shortly after strawberries and make an excellent small fruit crop for summer and fall depending on the cultivar selected. Two years are required to establish a raspberry planting, but once established, the planting can remain productive for several years if given good care.

Raspberries may also be classified as summer-bearing or everbearing. Summer-bearing cultivars produce one crop in the early summer, while everbearing cultivars can produce up to two crops a year, one crop being produced in the spring and the second crop in the fall. Most everbearing raspberries are of the red or yellow type.

Raspberries will grow and produce on most types of soil in Indiana but heavy wet soils should be avoided. If drainage is a problem and you have no other choice, plant raspberry bushes on ridges or in raised beds. The pH of the soil should be between 5.8 and 6.5.

Raspberries should be planted in an open site that receives at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight. **Avoid planting black raspberries within 300 ft. of any wild blackberry or red raspberry plants and in areas where tomatoes, potatoes or eggplants have been grown previously.** Early spring planting is preferred over fall planting. Plant as soon as the soil can be properly prepared. The plants can be established either in hedgerows or using the hill system depending on the types of raspberries. **Hedgerow:** Red raspberries should be set 2.5-3 feet apart. Purple and black raspberries should be set 3-4 feet apart. The row width should be kept 12-15 inches. A narrow row width provides adequate sunlight for the inner branches, easy picking, and stronger sturdier canes. The distances between rows should be 6 to 8 feet. **Hill:** Set plants 5-6 feet apart allowing each plant to develop into a hill of 6-8 canes. Row distance of 8-10 feet is needed depending on type of equipment used.

Fertilize twice each year (in March and again in May) with an application each time of one pound of 12-12-12 fertilizer per 100 ft. of row. A generous layer of organic mulch will help control weeds and conserve moisture. Irrigation may be required during dry weather, which is best done by the use of a soaker hose.

All raspberries need pruning. The canes are biennial, making their growth one season, fruiting the following spring and then dying. For information on pruning specific varieties, please refer to Extension Bulletin HD-44.

Information taken from Purdue Cooperative Extension Bulletin #HD-44.
For more information: www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/conhort.html