



Growing Raspberries & Blackberries



THE PLANTING SITE

- Berry plants like a rich, loamy soil, so adding compost in the form of leaf mold from the city compost pile, aged manure/bedding, aged sawdust, etc., will be beneficial.
- Slight berming of the planting bed can help provide drainage and keep plants healthy, especially in very heavy soils.
- We cover a new berry bed with black ground cover and cut good sized planting holes. We check for new shoots regularly, and cut the ground cover out as the new growth appears, over the first 2-3 years, until all ground cover is removed. Since weeds are the worst battle in any berry bed, this eliminates noxious weed competition quite thoroughly and makes maintenance of the bed much easier.

PLANTING

- A 3-5 ft. spacing will allow new shoots to fill in a new bed in about 3 years. You can plant closer if you'd like your row to be more full from the start. Plant at the same level as plants are growing in their pot.
- At planting, you can cut canes down to 2-8 inches. If you'd like to encourage new shoots to come quickly. Leaving a few leaves will benefit the plant. Prune off any dead canes.
- Water thoroughly.

MULCHING

- Although any mulch can be used to retain moisture and keep the bed tidy. LEAVES and LEAF MOLD (composted leaves) actually work to prevent disease in Raspberry and Blackberry patches, so we recommend using leaves above any other option. A thick layer of small, chopped, or composted leaves will still allow shoots to emerge.

WATERING

- Berry plants like plenty of water, so give a new planting a good, deep drink weekly in absence of nice rain. An established bed produce better if you continue this practice.



7808 Nebraska Ave, Cashton, WI 54619

landerson7808@gmail.com

Growing Raspberries & Blackberries

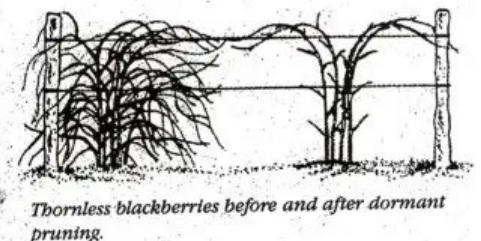
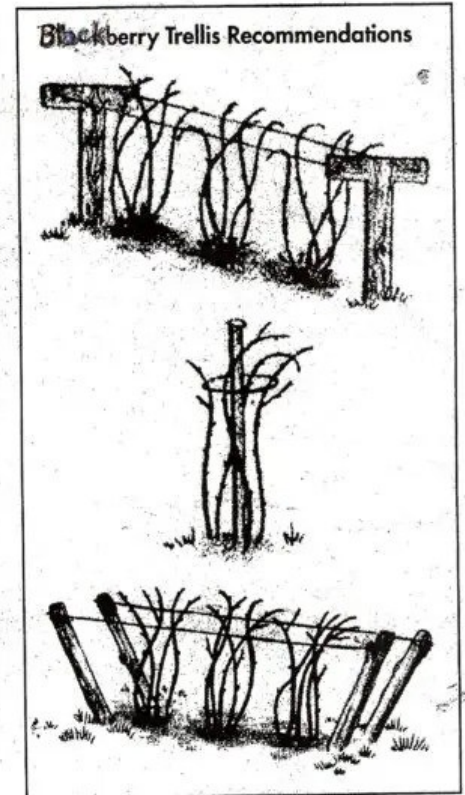


SUPPORT

- Blackberry plants require support. They bear on old wood, so you MUST keep canes alive and protected from rabbits and rodents through the winter to get fruit.
- Here in the cold zones, lay the canes on the ground and cover with burlap or old sheets and you can also cover with white plastic to keep temps even underneath. Include rodent repellent or bait stations to prevent rodent damage.

PRUNING

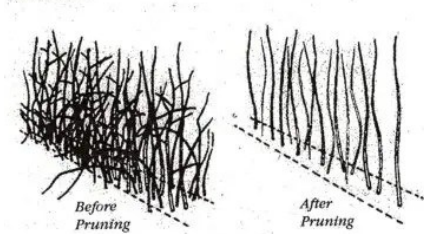
- Pruning is required to keep plants optimally productive. Fruit is produced on new wood on Raspberry plants, and on old wood on Blackberry plants.
- Our plants are Fall/Everbearing, so you have a choice as to pruning methods.
- ◇ If you mow the canes during the dormant season you will get a larger crop all at once beginning in late July.
- ◇ If you prune out the old canes and leave the newer ones without cutting, you will get a smaller crop in late June/early July and then after a short break canes will produce through frost.
- We find that the latter method works best on a smaller patch and will produce more berries overall. The mowing method makes pruning of a larger bed simple and quick, but I do find that in Zone 4, the canes are loaded with berries about the time we get a hard freeze, so overall harvestable production seems to be less.



Thornless blackberries before and after dormant pruning.

TWO PRUNING RASPBERRIES METHODS

Method 1



2. Low Maintenance Pruning for Red Raspberries - Everbearing red varieties can be mowed off right to the ground or as low as possible to eliminate any hand pruning. This removes all the old floricanes and you will have fruit only on the new growth in the following fall.

PRUNING BLACKBERRIES — Thornless blackberries often suffer winterkill on the young growth. Prune out all dead stalks. Remove the laterals that hang on the ground or are within 18 inches to the ground. Head the laterals back to 12-18 inches long. Thin out small diameter canes and leave only 4-6 per plant. Tie them together to form them onto a support or wire.