

LANDON'S
GREENHOUSE & NURSERY

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Adding Color to Your Life

PLANTING AND CARE OF RASPBERRIES

Landon's offers two types of raspberries:

Summer Bearers: Will provide 1 large harvest, usually in late summer or early fall. Summer bearing raspberries bear fruit on 2 year old canes, the canes that sprouted last season. The harvest period lasts about 4 -5 weeks. Latham and Boyne are summer bearers.

Fall Bearers: Generally have 2 harvests per season; one in mid-late summer and one in the fall. The fall crop will probably be a bit lighter and is on 1 year old canes of the current season. Fall Gold, Anne, and Autumn Bliss are fall bearers.

- Raspberries grow in moist, properly drained garden soils, and require ample organic matter such as compost or peat moss. We recommend amending soil with 30% organic material with the balance of soil from the planting hole.
- Tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, peppers, strawberries, and other brambles are all susceptible to many common diseases, so do not plant raspberries after or near these crops.
- It is best to plant raspberries in a sunny area away from extreme windy conditions, which will cause winter kill. However, raspberries can tolerate some light shade.
- Early spring planting is ideal for this crop and we recommend soaking the bareroot plants in a bucket of water for five hours, or overnight, to help them become established.
- Prune the canes to within six inches of the ground at planting time for best results.
- Plant the raspberries 2 to 3 feet apart in rows 4 to 5 feet apart. **Do not plant too deep.** In many cases a shallow trench or hole 2-3" deep is sufficient. The top roots should be no more than 1/2" below grade.
- Raspberries use more soil moisture than most fruit plants, requiring about 1-2 inches of water per week during the growing season. Extreme warm and/or windy conditions will increase the watering requirements. Be sure to thoroughly water the plants immediately after planting.

- Adding a multi-purpose fertilizer at planting is recommended. A mix containing approximately 20% each of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium is appropriate. Annual spring fertilization is also recommended. If you find you are getting more leafy growth and less fruit, try a fertilizer with less nitrogen and more phosphorus.
- Weeds should be kept out of the planting site, especially the first year to allow the raspberry plants full use of available water and nutrients. Mulches of straw, woodchips, coarse sawdust, or leaves placed around the canes will improve weed control, hydration, and winter loss.
- Raspberries may be affected by spider mites, whose presence is indicated by tiny yellow spots on the leaves, which eventually turn brown. Spray the mites with Diazinon or Malathion according to label directions. Harvest fruit according to post-treatment harvest guidelines.
- It is recommended that raspberries be protected from winter elements in the late fall with mulch, burlap or similar material. The advantage of fall bearing varieties is that winter protection is not necessary as the canes are mowed off after harvest (see below).

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE RASPBERRIES

**** CAUTION: Wear thick gloves; raspberries have serious thorns. And use clean, sharp tools****

Raspberry plants spread by suckers. This means raspberries like to grow and will spread if you let them. Large, unpruned bushes won't yield more berries and can lead to problems and even early die out. Raspberries can be prone to disease and pruning will inhibit the spread of disease.

To insure that light and air can get inside the plants and to facilitate pruning, keep your raspberry plants controlled in a row. Keep the base of the bushes within a 12 - 18 inch footprint by pruning out any suckers that poke up outside the 12 -18 inch footprint. Don't worry, the bushes will be much larger on top.

Late Fall/Early Spring:

- Prune all canes that bore fruit last year. These will have grayish, peeling bark.
- Prune any canes that have grown outside the 12-18 inch designated row footprint.
- Remove any spindly or short canes.
- Thin so that there is about 4-5 of the healthiest, tallest and fattest canes left per foot along the length of the row.
- Tie remaining canes to fencing or trellis if necessary or desired (Since the fruit bearing canes can become top heavy, trellising may be necessary; this is particularly true for summer bearing varieties).
- To force fall bearing raspberries to produce only one crop in the fall, prune back the entire raspberry bush in early spring. As the canes grow back in the summer, remove outside suckers and thin the canes to about 6 inches apart. Keep the sturdiest canes. This technique will give you a larger fall harvest and is good if you also have summer bearing raspberry bushes and you want to stagger the harvests.

Summer

- Prune dead, broken or diseased canes (this can actually be done at any time).
- Prune any canes that poke up outside your designated row area.