

Site Preparation: Select a location where plants will receive sun at least 4-6 hours a day. Raspberries prefer well-drained, loamy soil with plenty of organic matter. Mushroom compost works well. If your soil tends to be very wet, raised beds are recommended.

Plant Preparation: Soak bare root plants in water for several hours prior to planting. Do not trim roots prior to planting.

Planting Instructions: Planting holes should be wide enough to spread roots out and deep enough to bury cane 2" deeper than previous planting depth (look for soil mark on canes.) A mound of soil in the center of the hole will give you a base to spread roots over. Plant raspberries at least 2-3' apart. Water each plant thoroughly. Cut canes back to 2 or 3 buds above soil line. An organic mulch helps supply humus, keeps the soil moist and cool and cuts down on weeds. Trellising makes harvesting and maintenance easier.

Pruning Instructions for summer-fruiting varieties: Summer-fruiting varieties bear fruit on canes produced the previous year. Canes that bore fruit during the summer should be cut to the ground in October (or after leaves have dropped in the fall.) This will leave the canes produced this year for fruit production next year. Try to limit the number of canes per plant to 8 to 10 vigorous canes.

Pruning Instructions for ever-bearing varieties: Ever-bearing varieties can be pruned just like summer bearing varieties if two crops of berries are desired; a small crop in summer and a larger crop in fall. For a more abundant fall crop, mow the canes to the ground in late fall after the leaves have fallen. The new shoots that grow in the spring will produce a single crop in the fall.

Harvesting: Berries should be picked when they are firm but separate easily from the plant. Since raspberries ripen so quickly, they should be picked every other day to get the highest quality fruit. To prevent rotting, berries that are to be stored in the refrigerator or freezer should not be wet.