



RASPBERRIES

Site planning

Raspberries prefer to be planted full sun in well drained moist soil. Rows should be approximately 4' apart and for ease of maintenance grass or mulch between the rows. We mow grass in between the rows-this helps keep the raspberry canes in check from spreading all over! Raspberries prefer slightly acidic soil with a PH of 5.5-6.

Planting

Incorporate some aged compost into the soil before planting. Soak your raspberry roots for no more than an hour before planting. Plant canes roughly 3-4" deep and 16" apart. Raspberries are shallow rooted, so you don't want to bury them too deep! Top dress with compost in early spring to maximize growth.

Pruning

Raspberry canes produce berries on 2-year-old canes. After fruiting those canes should be cut off at the ground so optimize the growth of the canes for the next years crop. In the spring thin the remaining canes, leaving the biggest strongest canes at a rate of 4-6/foot of row.

Trellising

To keep your rows neat and canes from sagging to the ground under the weight of the berries, put a post at each end of the row with boards in a T shape. Run wires between these boards to support the raspberry canes.

Weeding

Many people just plant their raspberries and forget about them...weeding is a key factor in maximizing your crop size. The less competition your canes have for nutrients, water and light the better they grow! Keeping your raspberry patch weed free is definitely worth the effort !

Harvest

Berries ripen over a period of several weeks-picking every couple of days is crucial. Pick the berries on a sunny day when they are dry to ensure the longest shelf life possible. If you have to tug hard to get a raspberry to release it isn't ripe yet-a ripe berry will drop off easily.