



"Our Seeds Succeed"

# Raspberries

There are three main types of raspberries; red, black, and purple. Yellow raspberries are a variation of the red raspberry.

Red raspberries are most commonly grown in Utah. They have erect canes and are propagated by suckers which grow from the roots of the parent plant. June bearers produce a single summer crop on canes which grew the previous year. Everbearers produce a light spring crop on the year-old canes and a larger fall crop on the canes which grew the current year.

## SOIL PREPARATION

Growing raspberries is a lot of work. you should prepare your site at least a year before planting. Work to build up organic matter and eliminate perennial weeds. Raspberries should be planted on deep, well drained loamy soil. They do not do well in heavy clay or poorly-drained soils. Avoid soils with a high pH (above 7.9) because of serious iron chlorosis problems. They can be grown on sandy loam soil if irrigation and mulch are utilized to reduce moisture stress. Proper fertilizer and an ample supply of water is important. Your planting site should receive full sun and good air drainage. Raspberries and blackberries do not like wet feet. Don't plant them where there is standing water after a rain. If water stands on your field after a rain, consider planting raised beds to keep the plants (and roots) away from the standing water.

## PRUNING AND TRAINING

Summer or June-bearing red raspberries should be allowed to produce long healthy canes. Canes may be trellised if necessary so they don't fall over.

Don't prune new canes during the first season. In spring of the second season cut them to a height where they will support themselves, usually about 5 feet. Trellised berries may be allowed to grow long. Remove weak spindly canes and save the large, sturdy ones spaced about 3-4 inches apart. After canes fruit in June or July, they will die. Remove them to reduce insect and disease problems.

Everbearing raspberry canes are removed after fruiting in July, just as summer bearing type. The fall crop will grow on the current season's growth, so save healthy green shoots. Pruning is very easy, and you will reduce insect and disease problems.

## FERTILIZING

You need to apply nitrogen every year in Utah. Use 1 cup of ammonium sulfate 21-0-0 or 2/3 cup of ammonium nitrate 34-0-0 per 10 feet of row. The amount should be reduced if cane growth is excessive. Organic fertilizers such as manure or compost supply nutrients but may aggravate chlorosis problems and introduce weed seeds.

## IRRIGATION

Raspberries draw most of their moisture from the top two feet of soil, so keep it well supplied with moisture just prior to and during fruiting. Raspberries use about two inches of water per week during peak production. During non-fruiting periods, irrigation may be needed only every two to four weeks. Over watering will cause root rot as well as iron chlorosis.

## **HARVESTING**

Raspberries need to be harvested every two to three days during peak production periods. Ripe berries will separate easily from the receptacle which remains on the plants. Use the thumb, index finger and middle finger to pick the berries and carefully place them in containers. Berries should be refrigerated as soon as possible to prevent loss of quality, molding or decay. Berries will keep two to five days if they are refrigerated but should be used or processed as soon as possible.