

Growing Raspberries

If raspberries are one of your favourite fruits, either for eating fresh or for freezing or canning, try growing your own. Make sure you have enough room in your garden to make a planting worthwhile. Yields average about two pints per foot of row, and as they do not all ripen at once, you should have room for at least a 3 metre row of plants. Below is a quick guide for growing raspberries.

Category	Directions and Notes
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take great care to prepare the soil, as plantings should remain productive for 6 or more years. • A light sandy loam soil is ideal, but raspberries will grow on other soil provided the drainage is good. • Work compost or peat moss into the soil before planting.
Planting Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raspberries are grown in rows 2 to 3 metres apart depending on the space you have. The plants you purchase should be spaced 60 cm apart in the rows. • Set the plants at the same depth as they were grown in the nursery and do not let the roots dry out. • Firm the soil well but be careful not to break off any young growing shoots, water if the soil is dry and cut the canes back to about 5 cm at planting time. • All blossoms should be removed the first season to help the plants get established. The first year the plants will produce many new canes which will fruit the next year.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All blossoms should be removed the first season to help the plants get established. The first year the plants will produce many new canes which will fruit the next year. • Young plants should be weeded carefully the first season. • Mulching in succeeding years helps to keep down weeds and conserve moisture. • Plants should be fertilized early each spring with 1kg of 6-12-12 as per directions. Spread fertilizer evenly between the plants and for 60 cm or more on either side of the row.
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raspberry canes are biennial; that is, they complete their growth to full height one season, fruit the next season, and then die to be replaced by new shoots coming up. • Canes die after fruiting so they should be replaced by new shoots coming up. Canes die after fruiting so they should be cut out once the harvest is complete. Cut the canes out at ground level and put out with the garbage. • In early spring, thin the canes out, leaving strong canes about 4-6" and keep the row width to about 18".
Varieites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova: midseason. Medium sized berries; tart • Red Heritage: everbearing. Produces fruit Summer and Fall. • Jeanne D'Orleans: late season. Firm, large fruit

