

Raspberries

‘Rubus group’



Raspberries are one of the easiest of the soft fruits to grow, they will even grow in partial shade and in a pot.

There are two basic types, *summer fruiting*, which gives a heavy crop over a short period, so ideal for freezing or jam makers and *autumn fruiting*, which gives a small crop over a long period.

All varieties will begin to produce fruit in their second season. In some cases, ever-bearers may bear small berries in their first autumn.

Planting:

- Plant either late Oct through to March
- Plant far from wild growing berries, otherwise you risk the spread of pests and diseases to your garden.
- Prepare soil with compost or aged manure a couple weeks before planting.
- Raspberries love moisture, so try soaking the roots for an hour or two before planting.
- Dig a hole that is roomy enough for the roots to spread.
- Space plants about 30 to 45 cm apart, in rows 1 mtr apart.
- After planting, cut back canes, leaving 20 to 25 cm of cane.
- You may need to fashion a support. A trellis or a fence are good options. If you chose to use one of these, establish them at or before time of planting so the plants are not disturbed when maturing.
- Don't tug too hard on your raspberries when picking. A ripe raspberry will leave the vine willingly

Pruning:

- Summer Fruiting - Prune in Autumn. Leave about 6 of the thickest, strongest green canes, Cutting off the brown ones.
- Autumn Fruiting - Cut canes back to ground in February

Ever-Bearers require less care:

- Cut them to the ground in the Autumn, after you finish picking.