

# Growing Raspberries and Blackberries

## **THE PLANTING SITE:** *Selecting and preparing*

Choose an area with rich loam or sandy loam soil. It is ideal to add composted mulch or organic matter to the site. Work up the area well so there is ample loose soil. Provide good drainage. Slightly ridging up or berming the planting row is beneficial.

The pH of the soil should be in the 5.6 to 6.5 range. Avoid a site where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, or eggplant grew within the last 4 years. It is best not to have red and black raspberries in the same immediate area.

## **SPACING**

Red raspberries space 18"-24". Black raspberries space 24"- 30" apart. Blackberries space 36"- 48" apart. Allow 6'-10' between rows.

## **PLANTING**

**The roots can dry out very quickly. Never allow them to become dry at any time.** If possible soak the roots briefly before or during planting. Keep moist during planting. Do not plant too deeply. Generally about 1-2 inches deep is correct. **Water well immediately after planting.**

At planting, cut down the cane portion. Red raspberries and black raspberry transplants can be cut down so that only 8 to 12 inches remain. Black raspberry rooted tips can be cut to just above ground level. The top portion may not leaf out. What you want is new shoots that emerge from the root clump.

## **IRRIGATION**

Water or irrigate 2 or 3 times weekly. (1" to 2" rainfall per week) Cover newly planted raspberries with straw mulch or similar material to retain moisture.

## **FERTILIZING**

Do not fertilize at planting. Apply 5 lbs. per 100' row (10-10-10 or similar) 6-8 weeks after planting. The second year use 10 lbs per 100' row. Use 5-10 lbs. lime annually on every 100' row. Brambles respond well to good liming and fertilizing practices.

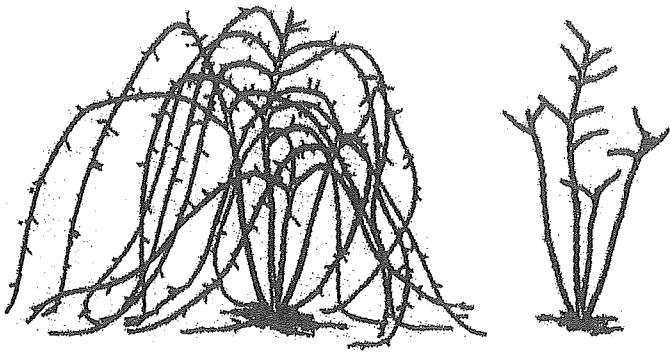
## **PRUNING**

Brambles must be pruned to maintain a healthy, productive plant. Because of different plant habits, red and black raspberries are pruned with the different methods. Blackberries are pruned similar to black raspberries, except they are allowed to grow higher and have longer side shoots. For details on pruning and maintenance of brambles, see pages 145 – 154 in *Backyard Fruit Production*.

## **SUPPORT SYSTEM**

A support system using staking or wire is recommended for black raspberries and blackberries.





## Pruning Black Raspberries

Black Raspberries produce a crop for only one season on each cane. Remove the cane right after it has fruited, or you can wait to remove it until the following spring. (It will then appear as a dead cane.)

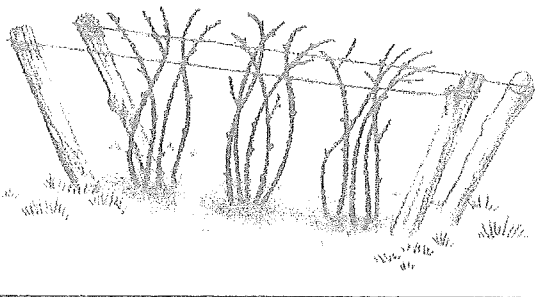
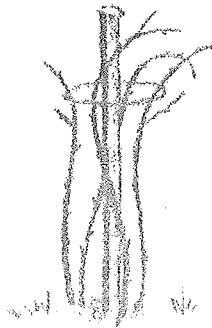
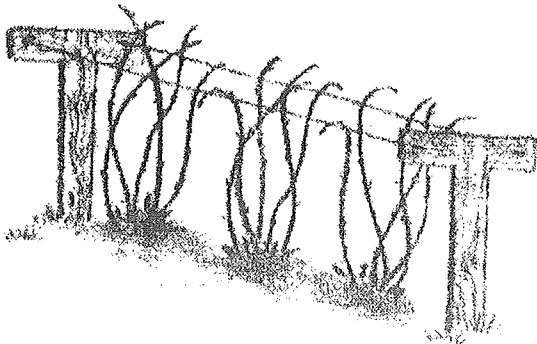
Shorten the long young laterals that come off the main cane to 6"-10" stubs or about 8-12 buds.

Thin out or reduce the number of canes to 4-6 strong growing stalks per clump or plant.

### Summer Tipping

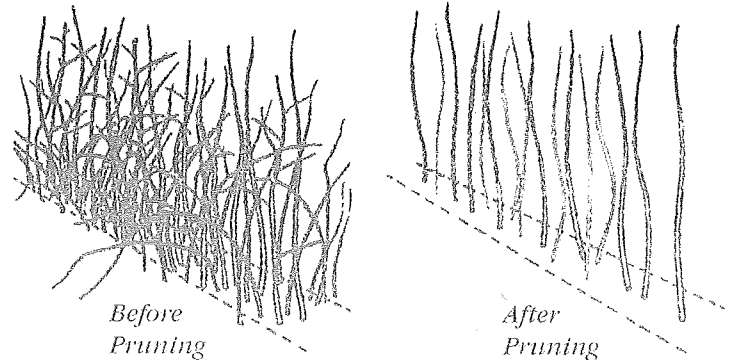
To increase lateral growth for next year's crop, pinch off the growing tips of the new canes during June through August once they reach the desired height of 3 1/2' - 5' feet tall.

### Raspberry Trellis Recommendations



## Pruning Red Raspberries (2 Methods)

### Method 1



### Method 2

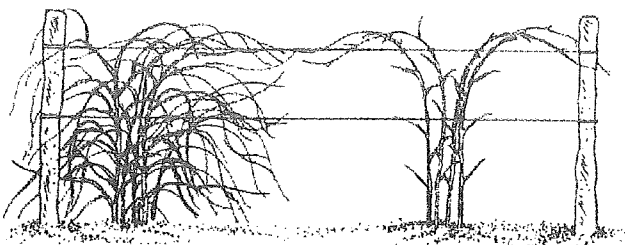
#### Low Maintenance Pruning for Red Raspberries

Everbearing red varieties can be mowed off right down to the ground or as low as possible to eliminate any hand pruning. This removes all the old floricanes and you will have fruit only on the new growth in the following fall.

## Pruning Blackberries

Thornless Blackberries often suffer winterkill on the young growth. Prune out all dead stalks.

Remove the laterals that hang onto the ground or are within 18 inches to the ground. Head the laterals back to 12 to 18 inches long. Thin out small diameter canes and leave only four to six per plant. Tie them together to form them onto a support or wire.



*Thornless blackberries before and after dormant pruning.*