

# Cane Berries

Both raspberries and blackberries grow well in the Pacific Northwest. The main difference between the two is that the core of the blackberry remains in place where the core comes out of the center of a raspberry. Loganberries and tayberries are crosses between the two and are grouped in the blackberry category due to their growth habit.

Raspberries can live anywhere from 5– 15 years or more, depending on environmental conditions and pest pressure. Take time to select your site carefully for optimal plant longevity & production. Ideal environmental conditions for raspberries are full sun exposure, protected from wind, fertile, well-drained, sandy loam or clay loam soils with moderate water-holding capacity. They perform best in a slightly acidic soil with a pH between 5.5-6.5. If soil drainage is a problem in your location, you will want to create raised beds. Poorly drained soil will result in low vigor or death. All cane berries grow best with even, consistent moisture throughout the growing season and should be fertilized at the time of planting with E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start (4-6-2), and again after harvest. Once established, a balanced organic fertilizer is recommended, such as E.B. Stone Rose & Flower Food (5-6-3) or E.B. Stone All-Purpose (5-5-5). Cane berries also benefit from mulching with 1/2” of compost, or leaf mold, or mulch.

## RASPBERRIES

Raspberries come in red, black, and yellow, and are divided into two types by their fruiting habits: **summer bearing** and **everbearing**.

**Everbearing** raspberries produce fruit on the tips of the current year’s canes, In late winter-early Spring (December—early February) while the plant is still dormant everbearing varieties should be cut to the ground. **Summer bearing** raspberries produce fruit on side branches of last year’s canes. Only the canes that have produced fruit during the growing season should be cut down to the ground after the fruit has been harvested. Tie the remaining canes to the trellis for next summer’s production.

Raspberries should be planted in rows two to three feet apart and supported with a strong trellis created with "T" posts and wire. As suckers develop, you’ll want to cut those off to contain the growth. Black varieties are less vigorous and are easily trained to a single stake.

## BLACKBERRIES

Blackberries and other trailing berries like boysenberry, marionberry and loganberry grow similar to raspberries except their canes grow along the ground instead of upright. All fruit is produced on two year old wood. Train two year old wood up onto a trellis for ease in picking. After fruiting, cut



off all canes that produced, which will be everything on the trellis. Then train the canes that are growing on the ground (the one year old canes) up onto the trellis. The new canes will produce the following year. The trellis should consist simply of posts with two to three wires strung between them to keep canes at an easy picking height. Space plants about six to eight feet apart. All cane berries are wonderful eaten fresh, in pies or in preserves.

Additional reading:

OSU Raspberry Cultivars for the PNW

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-655-raspberry-cultivars-pacific-northwest>

WSU Horticulture Fact Sheet: Wild Berries

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2053/2012/11/73bWildBerries.pdf>