

## Carol's Tips for Growing Raspberries

1. Raspberries need a trellis support system. That can be a central fence that you tie them up to. Or a support wire system – kind of a V or T.
2. Raspberries don't like summer heat, so afternoon shade helps. They do like irrigation, but not wet roots (get root rot), so a raised bed or well-drained soil is best.
3. Choose a summer-bearing or fall/everbearing variety. Note: summer bearing raspberries only produce fruit for about 1 month.
4. Primocanes: new shoots or new suckers

Floricanes: 2<sup>nd</sup> year canes that will bear fruit

5. If you really want to have raspberries throughout the summer, plant an everbearing variety (maybe Heritage or Fall Gold) and prune it for 2 crops.
  - a. Everbearing – bears fruit on current season's growth, including primocanes
  - b. In spring, cut the 1-year-old canes back to below the fruiting area, level with the top support wire (3'). These shortened canes begin fruiting in July. In the meantime, leafy new canes, called primocanes, grow rapidly up from between the old canes.
  - c. These new canes will flower and fruit later in the summer.
  - d. The following spring, remove the 2-year-old canes completely to make room for new growth, cutting them off at the ground, and trim back the 1-year-old canes.
6. Raspberries will rapidly spread and sucker from the roots. Try to keep each bed 1.5-2 feet wide. If you have parallel beds, leave 3-4 feet between rows so that you have room to pick. You can let spreading shoots sprout, then dig up & separate from main root to give away or create more beds.
7. If you're starting a new bed, buy disease-free bare root or get disease-free starts from a friend.
8. When pruning in spring – take out dead canes (2 year old, broken or freeze-killed), spindly canes, canes outside the bed. Space floricanes 4 per linear foot (these are the primocanes left from last fall that you're topping off). That leaves room for new primocanes. When you take out dead canes, cut as low to the ground as possible. Do not leave little stubs – bugs love those.
9. Raspberries are susceptible to disease. They need airflow to minimize disease (so pruning & thinning are critical). PLUS – remove leaves after they fall off in the fall. SANITATION. Rake up the leaves and use them for mulch elsewhere.