Raspberry Varieties

Blackcaps and purple raspberries feature rich distinct flavors. Purples and blackcaps are also great for flavorful jams and delicious juice. Everbearing are similar to the red raspberries that one would get in the store. Great for fresh eating and as they bear throughout the growing season they’re great for snacking. Spring crop varieties are best for those who want classic raspberry flavor for preserves and freezing as the bulk of production will all come at one time.

Blackcaps & Purples:

**Cumberland**: The best raspberry for jams and jellies. Medium blue-black berries have a strong, rich sweet flavor. Strong vigorous canes fruits in July.

**Munger**: Great sweet blackcap that’s never seedy. More disease resistant than other raspberries, however they generally don’t freeze well.

**Royalty**: Excellent purple raspberry – grown like a blackcap. They can be harvested at red for a sweet tart raspberry, or wait until they’re purple for a stronger sweeter berry. Excellent storage. Good insect resistance.

Everbearing:

**Amity**: Large firm dark red berries. Berries have notable strong flavor and excellent storage life. Great flavor fresh or frozen. Produces well in summer and fall.

**Autumn Bliss**: New top-rated variety is adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions. Bright red berries have excellent flavor. Vigorous and productive. Produces best in fall.

**Heritage**: Superior variety. Large dark red berries are firm and sweet. Great for fresh eating or canning. Sturdy canes can be grown without supports. Somewhat resistant to anthracnose and mildew. Small summer crop with superior fall crop.

**Summit**: Large bright red berries with mild sweet flavor. Great for fresh eating, and good storage life. Some resistance to root rot. Good production summer and fall.

Spring Crop:

**Meeker**: Large dark red fruit with high sugar content and good flavor. Tolerates poor soils. Vigorous and productive with a long season. Ripens Late June to Early July.

**Willamette**: Best known Spring Crop raspberry. Medium to large dark red berries are mild and sweet. Vigorous and productive. Produces late June to mid-July.

Varieties available in 2009.
Raspberry

**Planting:**
Raspberries are tall vining plants that generally need support. They may be grown in rows or clustered around a central stake.

Good-drainage is **EXTREMELY** important for raspberries. **Raspberries need EXCELLENT drainage.** In the Willamette valley the best way to ensure healthy raspberries is to put them in a raised bed. Raspberries are prone to disease if they are kept too moist.

Plant raspberries one foot deep, two feet apart and with six feet in between rows. Cut them to 2 inches tall after planting, this allows for root development and vigorous shoot development.

**Fertilizing:**
Fertilize raspberries in mid-spring and again right after harvest. Use a well-balanced fertilizer, a vegetable or all-purpose fertilizer works best; follow package instructions.

**Pruning:**
There are three types of raspberries and they require different pruning styles. Most raspberries require support. Posts six feet apart with horizontal wires at 2 and 4 ft generally work best.

**Blackcaps:** Prune after harvest. Remove old stems (brittle, or pale tan colored) at ground level. Thin the remaining canes lightly – blackcaps do not sucker like other raspberries. Prune a few inches off the tips of the remaining canes.

**Everbearing:** Everbearing raspberries require pruning in two cycles. In the FALL prune off the fruiting portion of the cane (roughly one foot). In the EARLY SUMMER after your first harvest, prune the fruiting cane to the ground. While you’re pruning thin the suckers to roughly six inches apart. This is also a good time to prune your raspberries to keep them within the boundaries of your bed.

**Spring Bearing:** Remove all fruit bearing canes right after harvest to ground level. Thin canes to about six inches apart and trim suckers to keep them with in boundaries. In the FALL cut a few inches off the tips that are remaining.

**Pest and Disease Control:**
Raspberries are prone to several types of fungal disease. The key to preventing fungal disease is to make sure that your raspberries are in soil with **Excellent Drainage.** Pruning raspberries is another way to prevent disease. Dormant sprays of lime sulfur and copper may offer additional protection, this is generally done in late winter or early spring.