



Refreshing Raspberries

for home grown goodness

Ronald C. Smith
Extension Horticulturist

No other summer fruit grown in North Dakota can provide the exquisite flavor, high nutritive value and exotic image of raspberries! They are high in fiber, vitamin C, and contain more calcium than any other temperate fruit

While not all locations in North Dakota are suited to growing this bramble, modification of the microclimate via tree plantings or buildings can allow the avid gardener to establish a few plants. Just 100 feet of a well-tended row of red raspberries will yield 50 to 75 quarts of this irresistible fruit.

While protection from temperature extremes is important in growing raspberries, plantings should be at least 50 feet from shade trees or windbreaks. If any wild raspberries are within 200 feet of the intended planting, they should be removed because they usually contain virus diseases that can spread to the new planting.

Sites where potatoes or tomatoes were previously grown should be avoided because of the possibility of verticillium wilt infection. Check also, to be sure that the area is free of invasive weeds such as Canada thistle, quackgrass or field bindweed (creeping jenny). While selective herbicides exist to remove these and just about any other weed species, problems will be greatly reduced if the site is free of the worst weeds before planting is undertaken.

Red Fruited Varieties

Boyne — This summer bearing variety is excellent for home gardens. The tender, glossy, dark red, medium-large fruit is good for processing and freezing. Canes are moderately vigorous, sturdy, winter hardy and very productive.

Killarney — Killarney is reliably hardy but slightly less vigorous and productive than Boyne under North Dakota conditions. The large berries have excellent quality either fresh or frozen.

Latham — This summer bearing variety yields attractive, light, red fruit that turns dark when overripe. The large, round, moderately firm, mild-flavored berries are of good quality. Plants are vigorous, upright, productive. Latham lacks hardiness and should be given winter protection or planted in well protected areas.

Purple Fruited Varieties

Purple fruited raspberries possess a growth habit similar to the red types with fruit flavor of black raspberries.

For Trial

Royalty — A cross between red and blank raspberry. Matures late in the season. Very flavorful and productive.

Brandywine — Brandywine is a vigorous, large fruited purple variety.

Black Fruited Varieties

Black raspberries are not as popular in North Dakota as the red fruited types. They are not as hardy and should be given some winter protection. In addition to fruit color, the black raspberries differ from the reds in the method of propagation. New red raspberry plants are produced by suckers. New black raspberry plants are produced by bending over the long, willowy canes and covering the tips with soil. A new plant results when the cane tip takes root.

Black Hawk — This is one of the hardiest black fruited varieties. Black Hawk produces large fruit of good quality.

Everbearing Varieties

The so-called “everbearing” or “fall-bearing” varieties produce fruit on the new growth as well as on the year-old growth. A summer crop can be obtained from the year-old growth, and the new growth could produce a fall crop.

NDSU
Extension Service

North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58108

April 2010

With North Dakota's short season, usually one crop is possible. If the canes are cut off at the ground level each spring, a satisfactory fall crop can be harvested.

For Trial

The varieties **Fallgold**, **Fallred** and **Heritage** are suggested.

Planting

Set raspberry plants in early spring. Cut the canes to within 6 inches of the ground for best results. Spacing for raspberry plants depends on the system of training you plan to use and on the type of cultivating equipment you own.

Raspberry plants can be set in hills and cultivated on all four sides or set in rows and cultivated on two sides. For planting in hills, space the plants far enough apart each way so you can cultivate between them. (Check the plants in each direction).

For planting in hedge rows, space the rows far enough apart to cultivate with available equipment. Set plants 3 to 4 feet apart within the row. If you plan to cultivate with a garden tractor, 6 feet is the minimum distance between rows. The use of farm tractors requires greater distances between rows for cultivation.

General Pest Controls – IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

Sanitation practices will help to limit pest problems and dependence on pesticide use. These practices include but are not limited to: keeping weed populations limited at the youngest stage by mechanical cultivation; removing the fruit-bearing canes as **soon as they finish bearing**; regular monitoring of the planting to observe pest build-up and possible predator controls; and spraying with a lime-sulfur dormant spray just before bud break in the spring. This acts as an excellent sani-tizer, helping to control anthracnose, cane and spur blight, mites and scales.

Weed Control

Raspberry plantings should be cultivated thoroughly and frequently. If weeds and grasses get a start, they are difficult to control.

Approved herbicides can be used for weed control in raspberry plantings. The use of herbicides supplements cultivation and does not replace it.

Herbicides are most useful in controlling weeds within rows or hills, where hand hoeing would otherwise be necessary. The middles between rows and hills should be cultivated regularly even though herbicides are used near the raspberry plants.

Pruning

Pruning is one of the most important parts of raspberry culture and it is very often neglected or improperly done. Proper pruning of raspberries makes fruit picking easier and the individual fruits will be larger.

In the hedge row system, spring pruning should consist of thinning the canes to 6 inches apart or 8 to 10 canes per 2 feet of row. Keep in mind the row should be only 18 inches wide. The remaining canes should be tipped or headed back to 3 to 3½ feet tall, since shortened canes are less likely to break under a load of fruit. This spring pruning should be done in the early spring before any growth takes place.

In the hill system, the spring pruning consists of selecting 6 to 10 canes and removing all others. The selected canes should be tipped to 3½ to 4 feet in height. At this time the canes should be tied to the stake in the hill system.

In midsummer, after the raspberries have finished fruiting, all canes that bore fruit should be removed. These old canes will die the following winter since the canes of raspberries live only two years. The first year each cane grows as a shoot starting from the root. The second year each cane fruits and dies. These canes that fruited compete with the young canes for moisture and nutrients. They also harbor insects and diseases. Destroy or bury all the refuse removed in pruning.

Winter Protection

Raspberries grown in exposed or difficult sites and the more tender varieties should be given some winter protection. This can be done successfully by bending the canes over and throwing a shovel of soil on the cane to hold it down on the ground. The bent over canes should then trap snow, which gives good protection. This usually results in less winter killing and better fruiting the following summer.

Insects and Diseases

Red spider mites are the most common insect pests of raspberries in North Dakota. The mites are tiny sucking insects found under the leaves. The damage appears as small light colored spots on the leaves. There may also be a cupping of the leaves. The most serious diseases of raspberries in North Dakota are virus diseases referred to as mosaics. Virus disease symptoms may show as cupping of the leaves, yellow-green mottling, loss of production and loss of quality in the fruit. This may be partially avoided by starting with new plants from a reliable, regularly inspected nursery. Raspberry plants from a neighbor's old "patch" often are infected.

For recommended controls, see publication E-299 "Fruit Insect and Disease Control Guide" for the home grower.

For more information on this and other topics, see: www.ag.ndsu.edu

This publication may be copied for noncommercial, educational purposes in its entirety with no changes.

Requests to use any portion of the document (including text, graphics or photos) should be sent to NDSU.permission@ndsu.edu.

Include exactly what is requested for use and how it will be used.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, disability, age, status as a U.S. veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, or public assistance status. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708.

County Commissions, NDSU and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, (701) 231-7881.

1.5M-4-06; 2M-4-10