



Bookcliff Gardens

nursery & landscape

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Berries

Different Types of Berries

Raspberries and Blackberries are closely related and have similar growing requirements. Raspberries are more cold tolerant, and the fruit pulls free of the core, or receptacle, making it look hollow. Blackberries are less cold hardy (though they do fine in the Grand Valley), they tend to develop into larger plants, and the receptacle detaches when the fruit is picked. Red and Yellow Raspberries are erect growing plants and may not need support. Black and Purple Raspberries are trailing and require trellising. Most Blackberries are erect growing and may not need support, however, because of their size, trellising is usually recommended to fit them into most backyard situations. Boysenberries are trailing and require trellising.

Single Crop vs. Two Crop Varieties

Most berries bear fruit on one-year-old canes. The first year, the cane sprouts from the ground and only grows foliage. After overwintering, the cane sets small lateral branches that bear the flowers and fruit. These single crop varieties usually ripen in June or July. There are varieties of Red and Yellow Raspberries that will flower and bear fruit the first year. These are called Everbearing, Fallbearing, or Two Crop Varieties. They bear a crop the first year in September, then a second crop the next year in June or July.

Planting

Dig planting hole at least twice as wide and only as deep as the rootball of the plant. Adjust the hole so that the top of the rootball is about 1" above ground level. Remove the plant from the container by turning the plant upside down and gently easing it out and set it in

the hole. Refill the hole with a blended mixture of 1/3 **Soil Pep** and 2/3 of your garden soil. The use of **Fertilome Root Stimulator** at planting time will greatly reduce transplant shock and help the plant resume normal growth more quickly. Raspberries are planted one to three feet apart, Blackberries four to six feet apart. Never plant Black Raspberries within 700 feet of Red Raspberries. Black Raspberries are susceptible to virus diseases carried by the reds.

Feeding

Feed your berries during the growing season with **Bookcliff Gardens Choice Professional Turf Food**. Do the first application the end of April, and do a second one in mid June. Sprinkle the recommended amount around the plant and immediately water it in well.

Watering

It is impossible to give a watering schedule that will be right for everyone all of the time. Factors such as the soil type, how big the plant is, how fast the plant is growing, air temperature, humidity, wind and light intensity all will affect how often a particular plant will need watering. The basic rule of thumb is to water deeply, but infrequently. Get the water down a minimum of 18" at each watering. This encourages the plant to develop a deep, drought tolerant root system. Then give the soil a chance to dry slightly between waterings. It is common for people to kill or unnecessarily stress their plants by watering too frequently. The roots of a plant require oxygen in order to function. If the soil is constantly waterlogged, there is not enough oxygen available to the root system and the roots suffocate and begin to die.