

Berry Basics

Strawberry

Raspberry

Blackberry



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Master Gardener Program

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Healthy & Delicious Fresh Berries!

- All berries are Herbaceous Perennials:
- Important to choose good location as that is where they will most likely remain



Strawberries

- Buy dormant strawberry stock that consists of a crown and root that will send up shoots, leaves and eventually runners
- Most varieties last 3-4 years and then need to be replaced



3 Types of Berries:

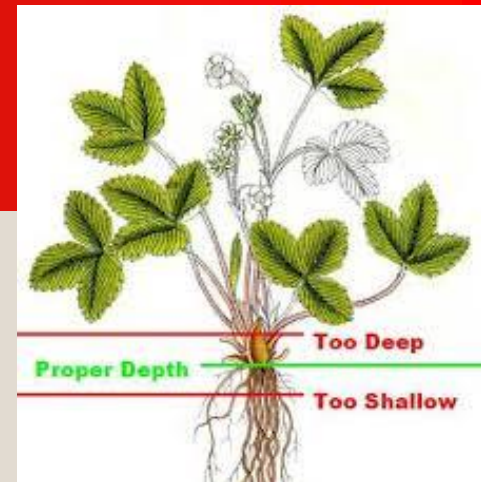
➤ June bearing - most productive with 1 heavy crop. They form flowers in the fall and produce fruit in June. Produce runners so matted rows encouraged so can plant runners to fill in spaces. When finished producing cut or mow all leaves to stimulate vigorous new growth but don't damage the crown.

Ex: Rainer / Chandler / Shuksan

➤ Ever bearing - bear fruit twice, once in spring and once in late summer but in small numbers Ex: Quinault / Ozark beauty

➤ Day neutral - set fruit spring and fall produce few runners so hill system best. Sensitive to heat so fruit production will go down in July & August.

Ex: Tristar / Tribute



Strawberries

- Prepare bed in the fall with composted steer manure and organic matter
- Best at pH 6.5 so may need to incorporate sulfur or ammonium sulfate in the soil
- Plant March or April if bare root and May if potted plants
- Loosen soil, plant 6" deep spread roots in fan and leave crown at soil level, 8" apart
- Can mulch with pine needles to help retain moisture and to keep soil acid

Strawberries

Planting:

- Do not plant where potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants or peppers were previously planted due to Verticillium wilt transfer
- Raised beds with drip irrigation for better drainage and soil warms up faster
- Needs 6 hours of direct sun
- Plant in well drained, loamy, sandy soil



Strawberries

Water:

- Even watering, especially before and during harvest

Fertilize:

- 5-10-5 especially before fruit set and during harvest.
- Pinch back runners to send energy to the plant and berry production



Strawberries

Bird control:

- Birds love ripe strawberries!!
- Best to put hoops and netting over plants
- Floating row cover or screens



Strawberries

Harvest:

- Early morning, leave on calyxes
 - Refrigerate and wash only before consuming
- After harvest removes leaves but don't damage crown.
- Cover with mulch (straw) over the winter for protection





Raspberries

- Perennial crowns/roots can live 30-40 years
- Rubus genus
- Most varieties red raspberries but also black, purple and yellow fruited varieties.
- Majority have tiny thorns
- All have upright canes and are **biennial**:
- 1st year - **Primocane** grows from the crown
- 2nd year - **Florican** bears fruit on lateral spurs

Types of Berries:

➤ June or Summer bearing on floricanes only - most common variety

Ex: Canby, Sumner, Willamette, Centennial

➤ Fall bearing produce berries on the ends of the primo canes and the following year at the base of the floricanes

Ex: Heritage, Amity, Summit, Fallgold (yellow fruit that result from a mutation of red raspberries)

- Purple raspberries: A hybrid between black and red raspberries

Ex: Brandywine, Royalty

- Black raspberries: sometimes called Black caps

Ex: Munger

Raspberries

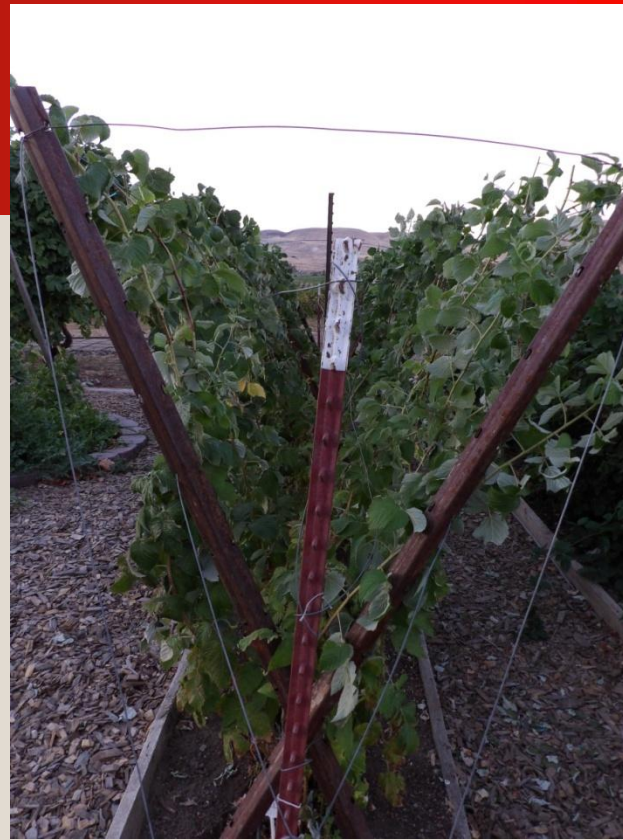
Planting:

- Full sun
- Well drained, loamy/sandy soil with soil depth of 24"
- pH 6.0-6.5 best - if alkaline add ammonium sulfate and other soil amendments
- Plant crowns at soil level in April
- Plant about 2 feet apart



Raspberries

- Prepare trellis system with stakes and 2-3 wires
- V system best - Primocanes grow in the center
- Tie Floricanes onto the wires
- Top any growth above 6 feet.
- Put in hedgerow formation



Twist ties



Raspberries

Water:

- Drip irrigation best
- Consistent - water well before and during fruit ripening
- Mulch to keep soil moist

Fertilize:

- March as buds swell and as flower production occurs
- White flowers attract bees for pollination



Raspberries

- In spring remove first flush of primocane growth so energy goes to floricanes
- Then limit primocanes to only the larger ones
- Keep to middle of row removing all outliers



Runners
are like
weeds!



Raspberries

- Avoid a “jungle” of overgrowth
- Manage your berries as they grow!



Raspberries

Harvest:

- The core remains attached to the plant and the berry easily slips off
- Pick early morning
- Refrigerate - shelf life of 2-3 days
- Wash only before consuming



Golden



Raspberries

Pruning:

- In mid October to early spring - remove all woody floricanes above crown with loppers
- Untie them from their wires and discard
- Leave only 4-6 primocanes per crown and tie them to wires
- top growth greater than 5-6'



Blackberries

- Perennial crowns/roots can live many years - Rubus
- Varieties are based on type of canes:
 - Trailing canes - Majority have large thorns - Ex: Olallie
 - Erect canes - cold hardy enough for eastern WA - Ex: Cherokee, Black Satin
 - Semi-erect - Ex: Chester, Triple Crown
- **Thornless** varieties
Ex: Triple Crown



Blackberries

All are biennial:

- 1st year
- **Primocane** grows from the crown
- 2nd year
- **Florican** bears fruit on lateral spurs that produce small fruiting branches called drupelets



drupelet



Planting:

- Full sun in March or April
- Well drained, loamy/sandy soil
- Soil depth of 24"
- Plant 3-4 feet apart
- pH 6.0-6.5 best - if alkaline add ammonium sulfate and other soil amendments
- Plant crowns at soil level in April - 2 feet apart
- Prepare trellis system with stakes and 2-3 wires, put in hedge row formation

Blackberries



Blackberries

Water:

- Drip irrigation best.
- Consistent but especially during flowering, then before and during fruit ripening

- Mulching helps to retain moisture

Fertilize:

- March as buds swell and as flower production occurs
- White flowers attract bees for pollination
- Borne on lateral spurs - white flowers in drupelets
- In spring limit primocanes to only the larger ones



Blackberries

Harvest:

- July and August but have early, mid and late season varieties
- The fruit receptacle or core of the berry comes off with the fruit
- Best picked in early morning
- Refrigerate - shelf life of 2-3 days
- Wash only before consuming



Pruning:

- In late fall/early spring remove all woody floricanes above crown with loppers and untie them from their wires
- Leave only 4-6 primocanes per crown and tie them to wires in a fan shape to increase air circulation
- Top growth of any above 5-6 feet
- Cut back lateral branches to 12" to improve fruit quality.



Blackberries

Blackberry cultivars:

- **Loganberry** and **Boysenberry** are hybrids between blackberry and red Raspberry
- **Marionberry** – cross between Chehalem and Olallie blackberries
- Do not grow well on the east side need cooler temperatures
- Huge thorns!



Sit back and enjoy the “fruits” of your labor!

Preserve the Taste of Summer





Any Questions

Thank You

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