

Black raspberries are perennial plants with biennial canes. They are native throughout Missouri except for the southeastern lowlands of the "Bootheel" of the state. Cultivars of black raspberry can be injured by cold winter temperature.

Recommended Cultivars: Bristol and Jewel

Spacing and Planting: Space plants 4 feet apart in the row with the rows at least 8 feet apart. Plant in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked. Keep the roots moist during planting and cut the cane out at ground level after the plant is set. Remove this cane from the planting. Water after planting.

New plants arise when the tips of the canes or lateral (side branches) contact the ground and root in August, so care should be taken to keep these new plants from rooting throughout the row.

Fertilizing: The best way to determine fertilizer needs of the plants is by following recommendations based on soil sample results. The recommendations given here are general and should be fine-tuned to the fertility, nutrient holding ability of your particular soil, and the observations of the growth of your plants.

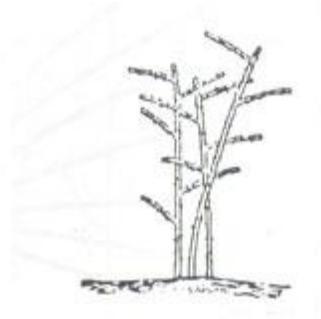
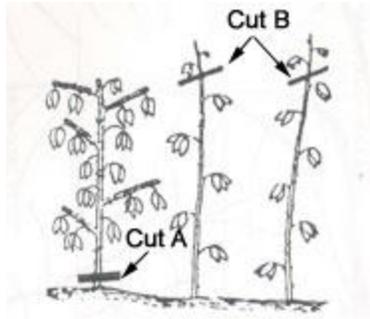
Planting year: One month after planting, apply 1/4 cup 13-13-13 per plant.

Year after planting: Apply 1/4 cup 13-13-13 or equivalent per plant.

Third season and thereafter: Apply 1/2 cup 13-13-13 or equivalent per plant in March.

Blossoms and pollination: You do not need 2 cultivars for cross pollination of black raspberries. Black raspberries are insect pollinated primarily by bees although some pollination is achieved with wind.

Harvest and storage: Berries are ripe when they turn a black and can be easily removed from the plant. Taste the first couple of berries you pick to get the idea. Berries are perishable, so remove them from the planting as soon as possible. Black raspberries can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 3 days, and generally last longer than red raspberries in storage. Yield is 1 quart per plant.



Summer (or fall/winter). Remove canes that produced fruit after harvest or in the dormant season (Cut A).

Dormant season. Unpruned black raspberry in the dormant season.

Dormant season. Prune leaving 3 to 6 healthy canes per plant. Shorten the lateral branches back to 7 inch

Summer-tip new primocanes to 30 - 40 inches if trellised or to 24 to 30 inches if untrellised (Cut B).

Diagrams from: Klingbeil, G. C., E. K. Wade, and C. Koval. Wisconsin raspberries. Wisconsin Coop. Ext. Bull. No. A 1610.

Pruning and Training: The black raspberry cane grows for two years. The first year, it is called a "primocane" and does not bear fruit, but must be tipped or pinched back to that it will produce lateral shoots that will bear fruit the following year. The second year is called a floricanes; it bears fruit and dies. Productive plants have a healthy mixture of both primocanes and floricanes at harvest. The use of a "T" trellis is optional for additional support of black raspberries. The trellis set up includes 2 wires 24 to 28 inches high and 18 inches apart running parallel to the ground on either side of the row.

Pests and Problems: Black raspberries are susceptible to winter injury. It is extremely important to eradicate perennial weeds before you plant raspberries. Black raspberry diseases include the fungus anthracnose, the fungus botrytis fruit and blossom blight, orange rust, and phytophthora root rot which is promoted by poor water drainage. Raspberry crown borer and spotted wing drosophila (SWD) may be a problem.

M. Odneal 2019