



# Tips On Growing Raspberries

## Check list:

You will need:-

- \* M.A.A.F. CERTIFIED virus free canes (from Cleeve Nursery)
- \* Support post and wires
- \* Well rotted manure or mushroom compost

## Site Conditions

Raspberries canes grow best in slightly acid soil conditions (pH 6.0), which is well drained but retains moisture [they will grow with limey soils but regular mulching becomes more important]. Canes do best in open sunny positions sheltered from strong winds, but will tolerate light shade.

## Preparation

Clear all perennial weeds i.e. couch grass (use Round-Up and delay planting if necessary). In Autumn dig in plenty of well rotted or concentrated manure. Apply a dressing of good fertiliser e.g. Vitax Q4. Erect a support system as most canes reach a height of 2 metres.

## Planting

The best time to plant raspberry canes is late October to late February. Canes should be placed at 35 - 45cm apart and 2 m between rows. Spread out roots and plant to a **depth of 5 - 10 cm** [the same depth as they were in the nursery]. Cut back to 15 - 30 cm (no fruits will be produced in first year) from ground level. **Autumn varieties should be cut back in Spring.** Firm in and water well, especially during spring and the first summer.

## Aftercare

Mulch in Spring with well rotted farmyard manure or compost and feed with Growmore or pelleted chicken manure. It can be useful to liquid feed with Miracle-Gro Ericaceous if the foliage shows signs of yellowing. This will help to reduce the pH on alkaline soils.

Remove all suckers from the main roots. Cut out any damaged or broken canes. Tie in strongest new canes as they grow in first year, cut all new canes to within 15cm of top wire. In subsequent years cut down to ground level any canes that have fruited, plus any weak and spindly canes. Aim to leave strong canes at 8 - 10cm apart. Water well in dry weather but keep foliage dry if possible.

## Pest and Diseases

Spray to control Raspberry Beetle grubs and greenfly with a suitable insecticide e.g. Sprayday Greenfly killer. Spray with Winter Wash when canes are fully dormant. Any canes showing signs of virus should be dug out and burnt. If birds are a problem use netting or fruit cages.