




Raspberry *(Rubus idaeus)*

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
Cane icon	D	2 x 1.5	0.45	N				Y	Autumn/ winter	Summer/ autumn

Site

- Prefers a sunny site with some shade from hot afternoon sun – tolerates partial shade.
- Hardy to frosts and needs winter chill.
- Needs shelter from strong winds.
- Does not tolerate wet feet – needs well-drained soil that also retains water.
- Spreads by suckers – plant in a place where this won't matter, or dig the suckers up each year and relocate them.
- Grow against a support structure e.g. between posts or against a fence with two or three strands of wire, up to 1.7m high.
- Cut off any surplus new canes at ground level, to prevent overcrowding.
- Cut off the tops of any canes that grow taller than 2m.
- After fruiting in autumn, keep the canes that carried fruit this season until they fruit again next spring, then cut them off at ground level in autumn.
- Keep a balance of new and second-year canes each year.
- Remove all prunings from your property, and clean your tools between plants, to reduce the risk of diseases.

Care

- Plant canes preferably in late autumn/early winter, or early spring if necessary.
- Plant into a trench filled with compost and soil, about 45cm apart (overcrowding leads to diseases).
- Cut the stems back to a bud at about 25cm.
- Roots are very close to the surface – in spring, spread a thick mulch of well-rotted manure (or acidic compost and pine needles) to keep the roots moist and suppress weeds.
- Keep the soil moist (but not waterlogged) when the fruit is developing.
- Self-fertile – pollinated mainly by bees and other insects.
- Need to be protected from birds with netting.

Training & pruning

- Each spring, train six new canes per plant up between two wires (upright or fan pattern), with the canes spaced 15cm apart.

Companions

- Mulch the canes and grow parsley and tansy nearby.

Harvest

- Bears fruit within 2 or 3 years.
- Pick when fully ripe for using fresh with yoghurt, or in desserts, fruit salad.
- For jam or freezing, pick when they're still firm.

Health

- Good for vitamin C, anti-cancer properties, fibre, minerals.

Plants for free

Suckers

- In autumn, carefully cut the suckers away from the parent root, plant them in a new row, and shorten them to 30cm.