

## Blackberries



### Black Satin

Thornless Blackberry

Large, firm, glossy black berries. Sweet flavor and excellent quality for jams, jellies, and fresh eating. Heavy yield, semi-erect, thornless vines that do not give rise to the occasional prickly cane like so many of the other thornless blackberry types.

### Olallie

Blackberry

Developed in Oregon but produces extremely well in CA where the lack of day length and cold limit the productivity of some blackberries. Large, shiny, firm black berries. Sweet with some wild blackberry flavor. Vigorous and productive trailing, thorny canes. Ripens in July. Good for fresh eating, jams, and freezing.

### Thornless Boysen

Thornless Blackberry

Very large, almost seedless, sweet, juicy, full-bodied flavor. Good for fresh eating, freezing, jams, preserves, pastries, juice, syrup, and wine. Too soft for shipping. Ripens during May and June. Thornless forms of all blackberries should not be cultivated deeply as damaged feeder roots will send up an occasional thorned sucker that has to be removed.

### Logan

Thornless Blackberry

Originating in California, the Logan is thought to be a natural cross between a California native blackberry and a red raspberry. The berries are long, large, dark red, acid, and highly flavored. The Logan is often used for pies, juice, and wine. Not as widely grown commercially as it once was. There is high demand for it in the home garden due to its desirable flavor.

### Munger

Blackberry

Munger is a midseason bearer. Large, plump yet firm, shiny black berries that are not seedy. Munger has a delicious, sweet flavor that is excellent for jam, jellies, and preserves. Only satisfactory for freezing. Munger has stout canes that appear to be more resistant to Fungal Diseases than other raspberry varieties.



### Prime Ark 45

Blackberry

The medium to extremely large fruit have good flavor and hold up well after picking. Their firmness and high sugar content make them great choice for canning and baking. Produces fruit on first and second year canes making pruning a breeze. Ripening is very late and will extend the blackberry season late into the summer.

## Raspberries



### Amity

Red Ever-Bearing Raspberry

Large, firm, dark red berries with classic raspberry flavor and superior quality. Excellent for fresh market. Amity is good for shipping, freezing, and canning. Can take somewhat heavier soils.

### Autumn Britten

Red Raspberry

A sister seedling of Autumn Bliss that has much better fruit firmness and is also a better producer. It ripens 3 weeks before Heritage. The berries are long, conical shaped with bright red color and good flavor. Good upright growth habit.

### Caroline

Red Ever-Bearing Raspberry

Uniquely flavored, large, firm, and cohesive fruit. Long conical-shaped berry that fruits earlier than Heritage. It is more resistant to root rot and yellow rust than Heritage. Plants are very productive and produce fruit over a long period.

### Fall Gold

Golden Ever-Bearing Raspberry

Large, conical, non-crumbling, very sweet, somewhat soft, golden berries. Excellent for processing and fresh eating. Canes are vigorous, productive, and adaptable to a wide variety of soils. Not recommended for extreme northern areas. First crop ripens in July. Second crop from late August.

### Heritage

Red Ever-Bearing Raspberry

Large, sweet, dark red berries with a mild flavor. This superior quality berry is good for fresh eating, freezing, canning, and preserves. Strong, vigorous, very productive; suckers prolifically and spreads rapidly. Fairly tolerant of heavier soils. Produces fruit on first year canes making pruning a breeze.



East Bay Nursery

2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702

510.845.6490

[www.eastbaynursery.com](http://www.eastbaynursery.com)



# Blackberries & Raspberries

## Site Selection and Soil

Brambles grow and fruit best in a sunny location. Although brambles tolerate a broad range of soil types, they require soil with good drainage. Do not plant these berries in sites where water accumulates after a rainfall. If this is not possible, plant in a raised bed at least 10 inches in height.

## Planting:

Soil preparation is very important since these plants will remain in the garden and will produce fruit for years to come. Amend the soil heavily with a quality soil amendment and work in to a depth of 7-8 inches. Set plants 24-30 inches apart to form a row or group in a triangle with 18 inch sides if you would like to form a clump. Plant 1-2 inches deeper than what these plants are grown in the nursery container. Hold off on adding any starter fertilizer or additional manure until one month after planting. Brambles become very susceptible to disease and borer infestation when over fertilized. Feed minimally with a low nitrogen fertilizer such as a "Fruit Tree and Veggie" blend.

## Irrigation:

If you water regularly between bloom and harvest, you will increase yield, fruit size, and fruit flavor. Watering should be done roughly once a week to every 10 days for established plants. When watering, do so early enough in the day to allow your plants to dry before the evening; plants and fruit which remain wet during the night are more susceptible to diseases like powdery mildew.

Trickle irrigation is particularly well suited to berry crops and is an effective and efficient way of irrigating. The best technique uses soaker or



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emitter lines which run the length of the row on both sides of the plants.

## Pruning:

Pruning has a major effect on the quantity and quality of the fruit your plants will provide. The type of pruning used affects growth rate, fruit number, size, and sweetness as well as the plants susceptibility to diseases.

## Primocane Fruiting Raspberries

This type of raspberry plant produces fruit at the top of first year canes in late summer and on the lower portion of these same canes in early summer of the following year. Most home growers choose the extended fruiting season that these berries provide but pruning is more complicated and involves thinning the first year canes and removing the 2nd year canes after harvesting the early crop.

To simplify pruning, sacrifice the early summer crop in favor of a single higher-quality late summer crop. When pruning primocane fruiting raspberry plants for a single late season crop, cut all canes to the ground in early spring. It is important to cut old canes as close to the ground as possible so buds break from below the soil surface.

## Florican Fruiting Raspberries and Blackberries

Florican fruiting types produce buds on second year canes. Unlike primocane fruiting types, canes must remain intact throughout the winter and until the completion of harvest the second year. Cut them at ground level after fruiting. In early spring, the previous years canes are topped to a reasonable height and thinned to a desired number. Diseased or winter-damaged wood should be removed.

Another method used, which simplifies the pruning process, is to cut all of the canes to the ground from 1/2 of the planting. Alternate each year

between the two halves. This will limit fruiting to the half containing the two year old canes.

In either method the number of canes permitted to grow should be limited to 4-6 per square foot of row. It is easiest to remove the excess canes when they are young and tender as thier thorns have not fully formed yet.

## Trellising:

Many growers of raspberries and blackberries have found that basic trellising is necessary. One system that works well consists of T- shaped wooden or metal posts which are spaced 10-12 feet apart and approximately 4-5 feet tall with 2-3-foot cross arms. The end of each cross arm contains a screw eye or other device that holds bailing wire that has been pulled taught and anchored on the ends. The canes should be trained up through the wires; canes growing outside the wires should be removed.

## Harvest:

Raspberries do not keep well on the plant and must be harvested every 2 or 3 days. Expect a small crop the first year after planting. Production reaches its peak the third year after planting and slowly declines in subsequent years. Many gardeners choose to replant a site after 10 years.

To store raspberries for later use, proper post-harvest care is critical. Select only berries in good condition and immediately cool them to as close to 33 degrees F as possible. All berries are best when used fresh and typically will not store for more then a few days. Do not rinse the berries until you are ready to use them. Freeze individually on a cookie sheet, then store in a zipper sealed bag.

## We recommend the following products to keep your berries healthy and happy.



### Soil Amendment

Allows young roots to breath and develop more easily when blended with our garden soils at planting time. Helps to retain moisture.



### Maintenance Fertilizer

Acidifies the soil while feeding; though typically not labled for berries, a fertilizer designed for acid loving plants is preferred by these plants.



### Soil Acidifier/Fertilizer Booster

Acidifies the soil which makes nutrients readily available for plant uptake.



### Mulch

Keeps roots cool while reducing watering needs and suppressing weeds.