

Raspberry Planting and Care Guide



Planting Guide

Here's what you need:

- Bare-root raspberry plants
- Hole-digging tool (hand trowel, shovel, etc.)
- Pruners
- Bucket and water for soaking

1. **Before planting: soak bare-root raspberry plants' roots in a bucket or large tub of water for one to two hours.** This helps keep the roots from drying out while you prepare the planting hole. Avoid soaking roots for more than four hours.
2. You can space the plants 2 to 3 feet apart.
3. Dig the planting hole deep and wide enough to accommodate the current root system without being restricted. When digging the planting hole, make sure it is wide enough so each raspberry plant's root system has plenty of room to easily expand. In general you do not want to put the roots of the raspberry plant very deep. It is ideal for the roots to be covered by 2" inches or so of soil. This makes it easier for the plants to send up new growth from the roots.
4. Once the plant is positioned in the hole, back-fill the soil over and around the raspberry plant's roots, so that the topmost root has about two inches of soil covering it.
5. Tamp the soil down with your hands to remove any air pockets that may have formed around the roots.
6. Water thoroughly after planting reusing the water from the root soaking bucket or a hose.
7. **This part is important: After planting, be sure to prune the bare-root canes back to about 2 inches above the ground.** This encourages the roots to send up new growth during the growing season. Raspberry plants send up new growth as suckers from below the ground. In addition to buds on the cane, you should see new sprouts emerge up through the ground from the root system over the next couple months.

Caring for your Raspberry Plant(s)

1. New growth may not appear for 5 - 6 weeks. The cane portion of the plant may never leaf out; expect most, if not all new growth to come from the roots.

2. After watering for a few days/weeks, if soil appears to settle and sinks into the planting hole or the roots look a bit exposed, just add a little more soil – enough to bring the hole to ground level again.
3. Maintain good soil moisture until plants are well established. Do not water every day – one to three times per week is sufficient if there is no rain.
4. You can apply a layer of organic material like wood mulch or straw), about 2 to 3 inches thick, around the root zone of your raspberry plants. Mulching helps discourage weeds while also keeping water from quickly evaporating away from the root zone. In the fall, you can increase the mulch layer for a little winter protection. Straw is especially good for this.
5. After your raspberry plants are established, they require very little in the way of assistance to grow and bear fruit. You may want to build a small trellis for your raspberry plants so that, once they're heavy with fruit, they will have the support they need to keep from bending over or breaking. This can also help to keep them contained.

