

# ZAMZOWS

## Backyard Berry & Fruit Fest



## Blackberry & Raspberry Care

### Sight Selection

Blackberries and raspberries are very versatile and forgiving of their location. However, they will perform best in full sun for at least 6 hours a day. Their location should be free of grass and weeds as these can be difficult to remove once the plant is established.

### Planting for Success

Plant your blackberries and raspberries as you would any other perennial. Dig your hole a few inches wider and slightly deeper than your pot. Amend your soil with a small amount of compost and use Dr. JimZ 3-2-1 Grow tabs to promote root development and Mycorrhizae inoculation. Once planted, water them in with Zamzows Thrive using a 1 cup of Thrive to one gallon of water. Once planted, set up a trellis or wire system and tie them to it.

### Watering Requirements

Blackberries and raspberries prefer consistently moist soil. Watering in the early to mid-morning will assure the plant has time to dry out by the end of the day preventing chances of disease. Water infrequently in spring and increase every other day as the fruit begins to develop. Note: Raspberries (red in particular), are susceptible to root rot and cannot handle poor drainage.

### Fertilizing

Blackberries and raspberries don't need frequent feeding to be productive. Feed your berries in spring as new canes begin to emerge and again after harvest has concluded for the year. A balanced fertilizer like Zamzows Nutri-rich is an ideal fertilizer. Apply ¼ pound of Nutri-rich to the base of each plant.

### When to Harvest

Blackberries and summer-bearing raspberries will begin flowering in mid to late-April. Fruit will begin to develop and ripen for the following 3 to 4 weeks. Fall-bearing (or ever-bearing) raspberries bear a crop in mid-summer and another in late summer to early fall. Allow berries to fully ripen on the cane before harvesting. The fruit should be soft and easily removed from the bramble. Harvest berries in the morning to prevent bruising and store them in the refrigerator.

### Pruning & Long-Term Care

Summer-bearing Raspberries and all Blackberry canes live for only two years. First-year canes (called primocanes) will only grow leaves. Year two canes (called floricanes), will produce flowers and set fruit. Floricanes should be pruned out after harvest. The new canes emerge from the root in spring. Select the 3-5 of the strongest canes and prune out the rest to prevent competition and assure a good crop. New canes should be tied to your trellis or wire as they grow and pruned to 8 or 10 feet in length once growth stops. Fall-bearing raspberries produce fruit on their first year canes (primocanes). The canes grow 3-6 feet tall during the spring and summer, then flowers (and eventually fruit) develop on the tops. During the winter, the tops of the canes die and then flowers and fruit develop on the lower portion of the canes, under the dead tops. This allows a spring crop and then a late summer/fall crop.

### Common Disease and Insects

Rust – likely to appear in late summer through fall. Avoid overhead watering especially late in the day. Give your plants plenty of time to dry out. Monitor for infection and prune out smaller areas of infection. Badly damaged canes should be completely removed. Treat canes with Neem Oil.

Powdery Mildew – Treat the same as you would rust, seen above. The only difference is you may see damage appear in spring or fall.

Leaf Rollers – Commonly seen near alfalfa and sugar beet fields. Monitor plants for tightly rolled leaves with silken webbing. Remove damaged leaves and throw them away or burn them. Treat the plants with B.T.

Cane Borers – Monitor canes for swelling and/or woody galls 6 - 12 inches from the soil. Remove the entire cane and throw it away or burn it. Spraying with Neem Oil in spring through late summer can prevent further infestation.