

Urban Harvest  
Gardening for good.

## Raspberries

Category:	Temperate; partly deciduous
Hardiness:	Easily withstands freezes
Fruit Family:	Brambles with aggregate fruits
Light:	Morning sun; provide light shade in the afternoon
Size:	Usually pruned to 4'-5'H x 3' W
Soil:	Moist, well-drained, high organic content preferred
Planting:	Container grown berries may be planted year round with proper care



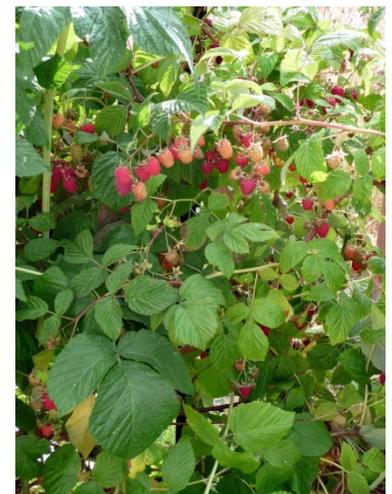
Raspberries are generally poorly adapted to places that do not have hard freezes in winter, and those that have very long, very hot, very wet summers. They are traditionally grown in Zone 7 where winter temperatures are in the single digits or lower. Even those reputed to grow in Zones 8 – 10 have shown themselves to be better adapted to the dry climate of California than the climate in Houston.

In recent years, the University of Maryland has released two varieties—the yellow Anne and the red Caroline—that have more root disease resistance than the West Coast varieties, so local raspberry lovers have hope. A vine ripe raspberry is a wonderful experience, so we will continue to explore these varieties as they are released in the hope that we will find both a variety and a cultural program that will make them successful on a wider basis.

Getting them through the first summer is the biggest challenge. This is easiest if there is a little light summer shade. The eastern side of a deciduous tree may be a good location. The vines will receive full morning sun, but will have some protection from harsh afternoon sun during the summer. They will also have a little more sun in late winter before the tree leaves out.

### Care of Raspberries

**Planting:** Containerized raspberries may be planted at any time, but will establish more easily if planted in late winter or early spring. Raspberries should be planted in a raised bed with good drainage and well composted soil. Dig a hole that is twice as wide as the container, and the same depth as the root ball. Set the root ball in the hole and backfill with soil. In all cases, water well after planting and apply an inch of leaf mold compost around the plant. Mulch with native mulch, pine straw, or well rotted leaves.



**Pruning & Training:** Raspberries in our climate are not very vigorous. If untrained, they tend to tangle and hug the ground, making it hard to weed them or pick them. This is most easily solved by training them to wires strung at 18" and 36" from the ground, stretched on metal fence stakes. The vines can be loosely tied to the wires and kept untangled and off the ground.

Canes should be tipped back to 3' when they reach 3'-4' tall to promote lateral growth and fruit production. Once the side branches reach 18" in length, they also should be headed back. This keeps the branches at right angles to the plant, rather than drooping and snagging on lower branches.

**Production:** Raspberries will begin to produce the second year from planting. Primocanes will grow the first year. These canes will become floricanes the following year. Once these canes have produced their fruits and have been harvested, the old canes will die. New primo-canecanes will sprout from the base. Commence training and pruning them just as you did the previous season. Cut out the dying canes after they have produced fruit, leaving the new canes to grow.

**Watering:** Provide *light* irrigation during dry periods.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize three times a year with a granular, balanced organic fertilizer.

**Harvesting:** Harvest berries on a dry, sunny day. Ripe berries will not give much resistance when picking. If you have to tug on the berry, it is not ready to pick. A ripe berry will almost fall into your hand with gentle pressure.

**Pests:** Birds are the chief pest of all cane berries. You can set up a framework of wire, PVC, or wood around your plants to support bird netting. A determined mockingbird will breach the toughest net. If you have the room, plant one bramble for the birds. This will sometimes help to keep them occupied so they will leave your netted brambles alone.

**Winter Protection:** Raspberries do not need winter protection.

## Varieties of Raspberries for the 2020 Sale

### *Caroline, Itsaul*

## Varieties of Raspberries for Southeast Texas – all raspberries should be considered experimental until proven for our area

**Caroline** - (PP# 10412) The search for a raspberry that will perform well in Southeast Texas continues! Caroline is the newest raspberry to show promise for our area. Vigorous, erect canes produce large, firm, conical berries with strong raspberry flavor. Floricane crop ripens in summer, Primocane crop may ripen from September through frost. Provide partial afternoon shade and even moisture. Self-fruitful.

**Heritage** - Large, sweet red berries on sturdy, upright canes. An 'everbearing' variety that produces a main crop (primocane) in the fall and a second crop (floricane) lower on the same canes late the

following summer. If one large fall crop is desired, cut the canes back to the ground after the fall (primary) harvest. Firm, sweet fruits that are good for fresh eating, preserves, and freezing. Plant in full sun. Self-fruitful. **250 chill hours.**

***Itsaul Summer Raspberry: (PPAF)*** A welcome breakthrough in plant breeding! This raspberry is proving to be dependable for the Houston area. Thornless canes bear fruit on sprawling vines. May bloom from May through November. Support on a trellis. Can be grown in containers. Self-fruitful. **200 chill hours.**