

# RASPBERRIES

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by

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# RASPBERRIES

Raspberries are not ordinarily considered a commercial crop in North Dakota. However, certain growers have made a success of growing small acreages. The labor problem with these small commercial planting is often solved by permitting the customers to "pick their own" at a price slightly under the local picked price. Raspberries are an important source of sauce, jam and delicious fresh fruit for the family table.

Cold winters and hot, dry summers are not favorable to raspberry growing. Certain raspberry varieties will withstand most of our cold winters, but prolonged hot, dry spells often result in a crop failure. Even so, bending the raspberry canes over in the fall and placing a shovel of earth on the tips will help catch snow and pay off in reduced winter killing.

## ● VARIETIES

Chief - An early red-fruited variety from Minnesota is one of the most popular raspberry varieties for North Dakota today. Chief is also recognized for its hardiness and bright red fruit.

Ruddy - An introduction of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, is renowned for hardiness and good yield. The fruit of Ruddy has a purplish tint. Sauce of Ruddy has a sprightly taste favored by many.

Latham - This is a later and larger-fruited variety than Chief. It has red fruit of excellent quality. Latham, however, is tender over much of North Dakota. Most gardeners will want to plan on giving Latham winter protection.

Recently, several new so-called "everbearing", or "fall bearing" raspberry varieties have been introduced. Of these only Durham ripens its fruit early enough to escape early fall frosts in North Dakota.

Durham may produce a summer crop on the previous season's canes, and a fall crop on the current season's canes. Canes of this variety are not dependably winter hardy in North Dakota. Durham is of value chiefly for its fall crop and should have all canes cut off to the ground each spring so only a fall crop will be produced.

Black raspberries are not as popular in North Dakota as the red-fruited sorts. As a rule, they are not as hardy as the reds and should be given winter protection. In addition to fruit color, black raspberries differ from the reds in the way they multiply. New red raspberry plants are produced by suckers. New black raspberry plants are produced by the long willowy canes bending over and a new plant resulting when the cane tip takes root.

Raspberries are self-fruitful and do not need another variety nearby as a pollinator.

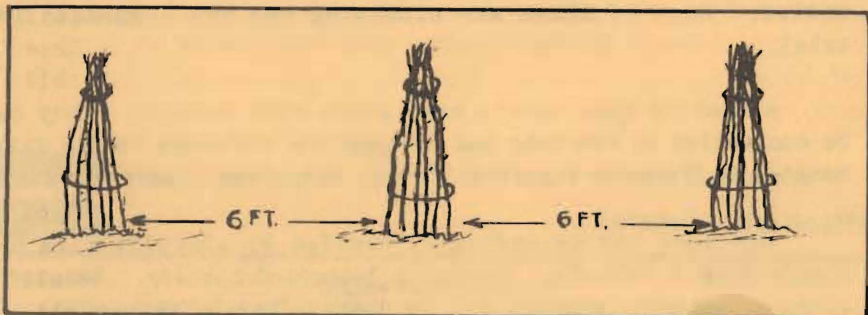
### ● CULTURE

Raspberry plants should be set in the early spring and the canes cut back to within 6 inches of the ground for best results.

They are most commonly grown in hedge rows in North Dakota. In the hedge row system rows are spaced 6 to 8 feet apart. Plants are set 3 to 4 feet apart in the row. The planting is then cultivated only lengthwise. In the case of red varieties suckers will quickly fill in between plants in the row. A solid hedge row results.

Hedge rows should not be permitted to become more than eighteen inches wide. Constant attention is necessary to keep these hedge rows from spreading. The worst weeds in raspberry plantings are usually young raspberry suckers. Clean cultivation between the rows should be practiced throughout the life of the planting.

The hill system of tillage has been followed in a limited number of raspberry plantings in North Dakota. Hills are established in a spacing of 4 by 6 feet. Six to 10 canes are permitted to grow in each hill. Each spring canes in these hills



TEPEE SYSTEM



are cut back to a height of 4 feet. The canes are tied tightly to a post with twine at a height of 30 inches and again at the 42 inch height. All other plants must be kept down.

When properly cared for, a hill system planting will yield well and is more easily picked than plants in a hedge row, especially in a hedge row that has gotten out of control.

The "tepee" system of raspberry culture is similar to the hill system, except no post is used in the center of the tepee. Spacing and number of canes per hill are approximately the same. Canes drawn together in the tepee are usually tied first at about 20 inches. At this height they are tied rather loosely. They are tied fairly tight at the 42 inch height, and pruned back to 48 inches as in the standard hill system.

### ● PRUNING

As soon as the crop has been harvested remove and burn the fruiting canes. This helps to control insects and diseases. Furthermore, a raspberry cane bears only for one season.

In the hedge row system the remaining plants should be thinned the following spring so that live, healthy canes stand about 6 inches apart within the hedge row. Cut all raspberry canes back to a height of 4 feet after thinning.

### ● INSECTS AND DISEASES

Red spider mites are the most common insect pests of raspberries in North Dakota. The variety Ruddy is resistant to the most common kind of spider mites.

Wettable sulfur applied as a spray or dusting sulfur applied with a duster are the recommended controls. New miticides for the control of red spider mites are appearing on the market. Some of these are promising and are suggested for trial.

Raspberry cane borers have given some trouble. They can be controlled by removing and burning the old canes in the fall. Sanitation is very important in the raspberry planting.

Diseases can be partially avoided by starting with new plants from a reliable, regularly inspected nursery. Raspberry plants from a neighbor's old raspberry "patch" very often are heavily infected with virus diseases.