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Nordic Raspberry

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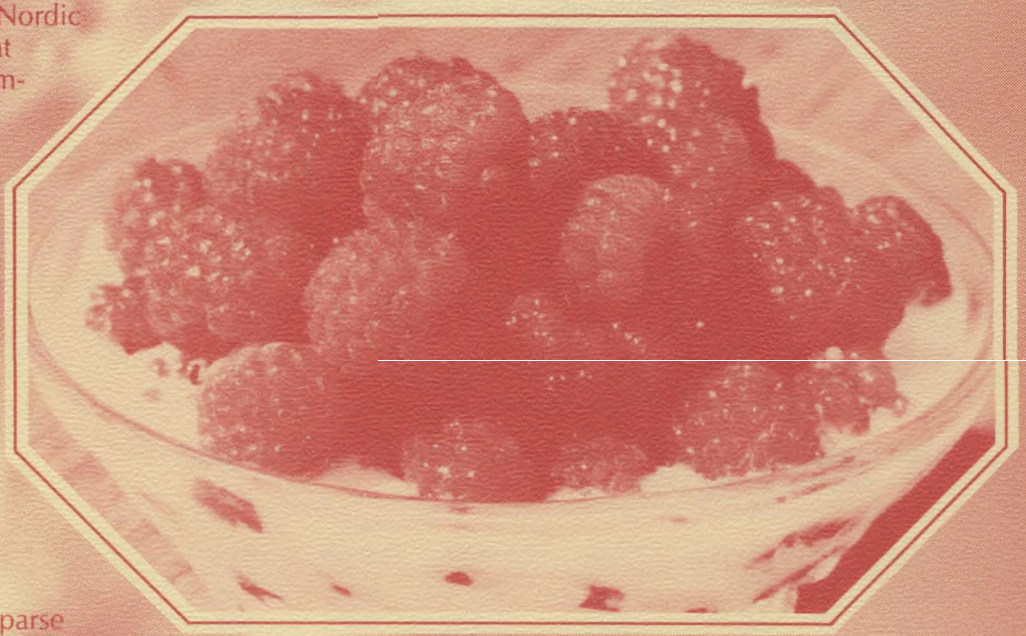
Nordic is a red raspberry *(Rubus idaeus L.)* cultivar developed by the University of Minnesota fruit breeding program. It is similar to Boyne, a widely grown cultivar in the northern United States and eastern Canada, but has fewer thorns on its canes, a less acidic and more pleasant tasting fruit, and greater resistance to anthracnose *(Elsinoe veneta)*. Nordic is not being introduced primarily as a fall-fruiting cultivar, but it will produce a late, small crop on the primocanes in years or locations with long growing seasons.

Nordic originated from a 1969 cross of Boyne and Fall Red. It was selected in 1972 and has been tested as MN 603 since 1974 at Excelsior, Grand Rapids, and Morris, Minnesota, and at several cooperating experiment stations in other states.

Nordic's yield, berry weight, harvest period and winter hardiness have been similar to Boyne. Nordic begins fruiting in the first week of July at Excelsior, Minnesota. Fruits are medium-sized, averaging approximately two grams/berry. The summer crop has been heavy. The fall crop, borne on the top six to ten nodes, has usually been less than 1000 lb/acre and has not been harvested until mid-September. This is two to three weeks later than Heritage.



Nordic has consistently been ranked superior to Boyne for fruit firmness, skin strength and flavor. The fruit color is lighter than Boyne. Frozen packs of Nordic fruit have been rated similar to those of Boyne.

Primocanes of Nordic are green, with sparse purple spines situated mostly at the base of the cane. Root suckering is moderate and cane height reaches approximately five feet. The primocanes have large, dark green

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leaves with three leaflets and typically have 35 to 40 nodes. The top 6 to 10 nodes will bear fruit in the autumn. Primocanes will frequently branch without pruning (topping or tipping) cuts, between nodes 10 to 15 (counting up from the soil line).

Nordic is susceptible to anthracnose *(Elsinoe veneta)* but has shown less severe infections than Boyne. Spur blight *(Didymella applanata)* infection level has been similar to Boyne. Nordic has performed well on heavy soils but response to root rot caused by Phytophthora species has not been determined.

Field observations and virus indexing after 10 years in evaluation plots at Excelsior, Minnesota, have indicated the presence of tomato ringspot virus but no infection by raspberry bushy dwarf or red raspberry mosaic viruses, though susceptibility to these viruses is unknown. Field counts and reproduction studies indicate that Nordic may have resistance to *Amphorophora agathonica*, the aphid vector of red raspberry mosaic virus.

Nordic is propagated from virus-indexed stock by cooperating nurseries under a royalty agreement with the Minnesota Nurserymen's Research Corporation.

Table 1. Performance of raspberry cultivars at Excelsior, Minnesota, 1981-1985, from a planting established in 1979

	Yield (1,000 lb/A)					Berry weight	Average first	Average peak
Cultivar	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	(g/berry)	harvest	harvest
Boyne	3.3	4.5	6.5	5.2	3.2	2.0	7/03	7/10
Reveille	2.4	8.4	8.0	4.8	—	2.6	7/03	7/10
Sentinel	1.5	5.8	7.5	4.7	—	2.5	7/13	7/11
Nordic	2.2	7.1	5.7	5.3	3.7	1.8	7/03	7/11
Brandywine	3.8	9.3	9.4	7.4	2.5	2.8	7/17	7/25

Table 2. Performance of raspberry cultivars at Excelsior, Minnesota in 1986, from a planting established in 1984

Cultivar	First harvest	Peak harvest	Yield (1,000 lb/A)	Berry wt. (g/berry)
	(July)			
Boyne	1	10	5.1	2.0
Haida	10	21	4.9	1.8
Skeena	7	17	4.4	2.5
Sentry	10	21	2.2	2.0
Nordic	1	14	4.4	2.0
MN637	1	14	3.6	2.3
Brandywine	10	28	5.5	2.9
Royalty	10	21	3.3	3.5
Lowden Purple	7	21	3.3	1.6

Table 3. Comparison of raspberry cultivars for fruit quality traits at Excelsior, Minnesota, 1983-1985

Cultivar	Attractiveness	Color	Firmness	Skin Strength	Flavor
Nordic	7.7	7.0	6.3	6.7	7.0
Boyne	7.0	6.3	5.3	6.0	6.3
Reveille	7.6	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Newburgh	6.3	6.3	4.6	5.3	8.0
Haida	8.3	7.6	8.0	7.0	7.0
Canby	7.6	7.3	6.6	7.3	7.3

[z]Rating scale for each trait is 1 = very poor to 9 = excellent.