Raspberries grow well in most areas of Minnesota, although they are not well-adapted to locations with hot, dry summers and severe winters. Raspberries belong to a large group of fruits known as brambles. The three main types of raspberries—red, black, and purple—are grown in Minnesota. The red raspberry is by far the most popular and successful.

**PLANTING SITE**

Almost any soil is satisfactory for growing raspberries. In fact, the subsoil is more important than the surface soil. It should be well-drained but not too sandy unless irrigation is available.

Select an area with good air drainage. Poor air drainage often results in increased late spring frost injury and diseases such as anthracnose and spur blight.

**RECOMMENDED VARIETIES**

Selecting the right variety depends upon your fruit district (figure 1) and how you plan to use the berries. Varieties are arranged below according to approximate harvest time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varieties</th>
<th>Fruit Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallred (red everbearing)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage (red everbearing)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburgh (red)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyne (red)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latham (red)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itasca (red)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol (black)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Hawk (black)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodus (purple)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X -- recommended as suitable
T -- suggested for trial

For additional information, see Horticulture Fact Sheet 3, Fruits for Minnesota.

**PLANTING**

Plant raspberries in the early spring as soon as the soil can be worked. Plant only highest quality nursery stock. Since virus diseases are serious in raspberries, use only healthy, disease-free plants. Obtaining plants from an abandoned patch can be costly, as they often are disease-infected.

If possible, plant in soil cultivated the previous season. It should be free of weeds, especially perennials such as quack-
stout-caned and may be grown in hills by tying the canes together about 3 feet from the ground and again about 6 inches higher (teepee-hill). Cut the tops back to about 4 feet from the ground.

Black and purple raspberries need not be tied; top at 18 to 24 inches to keep them in the form of a compact bush and from growing too tall. In the early summer when new sprouts have grown out about 2 feet, cut out the tip to induce the formation of many side branches. In the next season (spring, before growth starts), cut these side branches back to 6 to 8 inches. Fruit from pruned side branches is larger than from unpruned side branches.

THINNING

Raspberry canes grow the first year, fruit the second, then die. To thin red raspberries, remove the old canes as soon as the fruit is harvested. The new canes and suckers also should be thinned, leaving three to four strong canes per foot of hedgerow and about seven strong canes per hill.

To thin black or purple raspberries, remove canes less than 1/2 inch in diameter. If all canes are less than 1/2 inch, cut out all but the two largest.

Everbearings (autumn fruiting) do not conform entirely to the usual red raspberry pattern. The fall crop is produced on canes that developed the same season; the following spring, another crop is produced on the same canes. Healthy, vigorous plants can produce heavy crops both times. However, if only a fall crop is desired, cut the canes to the ground in the early spring.

FERTILIZING

For maximum yields, fertilize your plants every year. Use a complete fertilizer high in nitrogen at the rate of about 10 pounds per 100 feet of row or about 1/2 cupful around each hill. Broadcast the fertilizer between rows and work it in the soil about May 1. If well-rotted manure is available, apply evenly between rows in the late fall or early spring.

PREVENTING WINTER INJURY

Raspberry plantings in Minnesota frequently need protection from alternating cold and warm periods in late winter. Usually the canes can be protected by bending them over and holding them close to the ground with clods of dirt in late October or early November before the ground freezes. The earth clods are removed in the spring.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Although raspberries have few insect pests, diseases are numerous and troublesome. For additional information, see Extension Pamphlet 184, Home Fruit Spray Guide, and Plant Pathology Fact Sheet 8, Raspberry Diseases.

CULTIVATION AND HERBICIDES

Successful raspberry culture requires a weed-free patch. Cultivation (including hoeing and weeding) is effective but must be repeated several times during the season. Cultivation in addition to weed control, prevents canes from developing all over the raspberry patch. Too much cane development results in competition for moisture, minerals, and sunlight, and the berries are often small and inferior.

Chemical weed control is effective in raspberries. However, weed killers (herbicides) should supplement cultivation, not replace it. They are most useful in controlling certain annual and perennial weeds within the rows or hills. Cultivate between the rows regularly even though a herbicide is used.

Simazine and Casaron are effective in controlling germinating weeds in established plantings. In addition, they are generally effective against certain emerged and perennial weeds. Both can be purchased from your local nursery or garden center. Read the label on the container thoroughly and follow the directions carefully.

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