

Raspberries and Blackberries



Yearly Maintenance

Spring

- Cut all canes to the ground (Raspberry)
- Cut canes that produced fruit last year to the ground (Blackberry)
- Apply holistic sprays every two weeks to build up plant's natural immune system (Both)

Summer

- Tie this year's blackberry canes to trellis and cut off the growing tip at the same time (July)
- Harvest blackberries (July-August)

Fall

- Harvest raspberries (August-October)

Planting Information

- Recommended varieties: Raspberry 'Caroline', Blackberry 'Natchez'
- Necessary structures: Raised Bed: to provide extra drainage and to limit the raspberries spread. Trellis for the blackberries
- Blackberries and raspberries send up new stems every year, called "canes," that only live for two years each.
- Caroline Raspberry is a fall bearing raspberry, allowing it to be cut down every year, eliminating the need for trellising, while still producing fruit each fall for a prolonged period of time. Natchez is a thornless, non-spreading blackberry that needs to be trellised for easiest management.

Common Pests and Diseases

No major pests or diseases in the St. Louis area. All fruit trees and shrubs have the risk of aphid damage.

Spotted Wing Drosophilla: small fruit fly that lays eggs in ripening fruit

Treatment: insect netting, spinosad

How to Trellis Blackberries

Install a trellis with two parallel wires to separate the blackberries. The first year, trellis all the branches, or canes, to grow on Wire A. The canes on blackberry plants produce fruit after two years, so the first year you won't see any fruit.

The next year, the blackberry canes on Wire A will produce fruit. The blackberry plant will also send up new canes, trellis this new growth onto Wire B to separate it from last year's growth.

After the growing season is done, the blackberry canes that were on Wire A will no longer produce fruit. Remove the canes by cutting them down, and leave all canes on Wire B for next season.

Next year, the blackberry canes on Wire B will produce fruit. Trellis the new cane growth onto Wire A in order to separate it. Once the season is over, cut down all canes that are on Wire B. Repeat this process every year for easier harvesting and maintenance.

