



Success with Cane Fruits

Raspberries

Summer bearing varieties, such as *Meeker* or *Tulameen*, grow a cane each summer (the primocane) which forms flower buds in autumn that flower and fruit the following summer. While these canes fruit (now called floricanes), new primocanes emerge for next year's crop.



Fall bearing, or everbearing types, such as *Autumn Bliss* and *Fall Gold*, bear fruit on the top half of the first year primocanes in late summer and early fall. They overwinter and produce a second crop on the lower half of the canes the following June and July. If the canes are cut to the ground each fall, the late summer/early fall crop is larger and of higher quality. *Dinkum* is an everbearing type that has enough vigor to bear good quality fruit in summer and fall.

Site selection

Full sun is essential for sweet, well sized fruit.

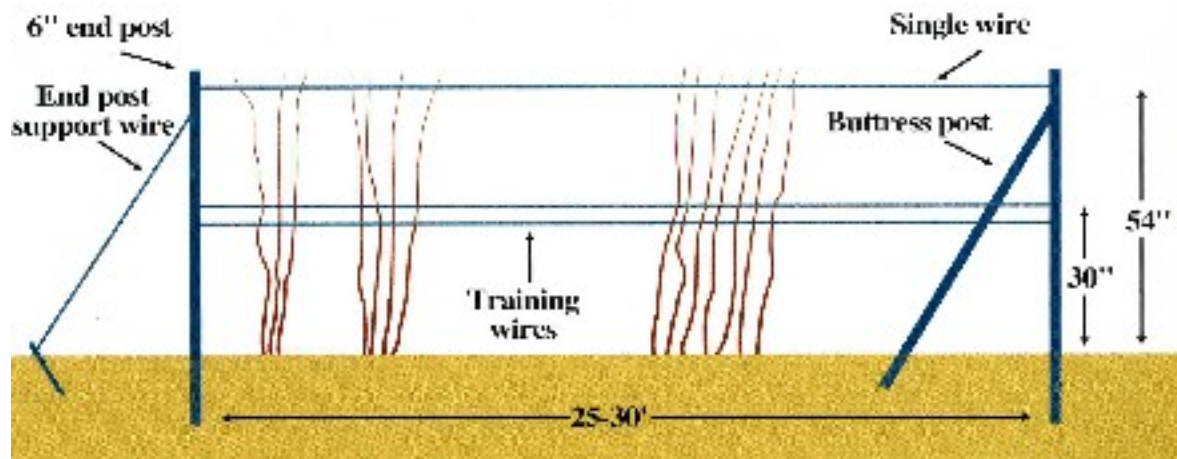
Deep, well drained sandy loam is the preferred soil. If the site has heavy, poorly drained soil, either install drain tiles, or build raised beds 1' high.

Plant dormant, bare root canes from late winter to mid-spring. Plant 30"-36" apart, with rows spaced 8' -10' apart. At planting, cut the cane to 3-4 buds above ground level. Each year, allow 10-12 primocanes to grow from each plant, removing excess primocanes by hoeing or tilling. Keep the rows 12"-18" wide.

Soil moisture is crucial during the fruit ripening stage of growth, and in late summer and early fall when flower buds are forming for the following year's crop. Irrigate if rainfall is insufficient. Overhead watering during fruit formation can lead to fruit rot; drip or soaker hose irrigation is preferred.

Trellising and Training.

Summer bearing raspberries and everbearing raspberries bearing a summer crop need to be trellised. A three wire trellis, with a top wire at 54", and two wires at 30" is recommended.



Pruning

On summer bearing varieties, remove the canes that have fruited any time after harvest. 10-12 of the healthiest primocanes should be tied to the top trellis wire. On vigorous, established plantings of summer bearers, remove the first flush of primocanes by hoeing in mid-late April. Allow 10-12 of the second flush of primocanes to grow.

On everbearing types, remove the top half of the cane after fruiting, leaving the lower half to fruit the following summer. Remove weaker canes by cutting them to the ground. The fall crop on many everbearing varieties is superior, so most growers cut all the canes to the ground in late fall.



Blackberries

Like summer bearing raspberries, blackberries fruit on second year canes. They should be trellised, and canes that have fruited are removed each fall or winter.

Site Selection.

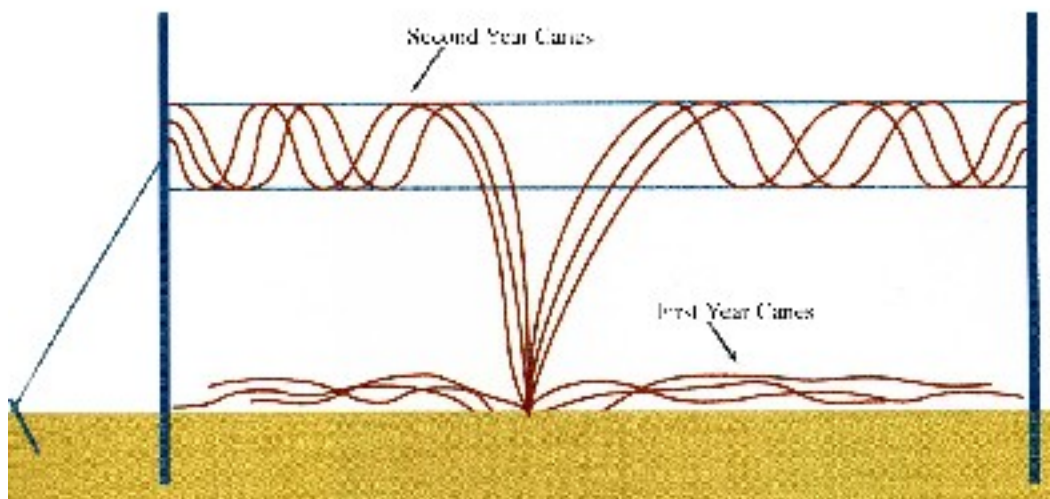
Blackberries are more soil tolerant than raspberries, but will grow and fruit best in well drained sites. They need full sun.

Plant dormant canes late winter through mid-spring.

Space the plants 4'-6' apart, with the rows spaced 9'-10' apart. All primocanes are allowed to grow each year.

Trellising and Training

A trellis system is needed to support the fruiting canes. One recommended system is similar to that for summer bearing raspberries, with a top wire at 5' and a second wire 18" lower. The fruiting canes are woven between these two wires. The primocanes are allowed to trail on the ground.



Trellis diagrams courtesy of WSU extension. For more information on growing can fruits, see WSU Bulletin EB 1640- Growing Small Fruits for the Home Garden.