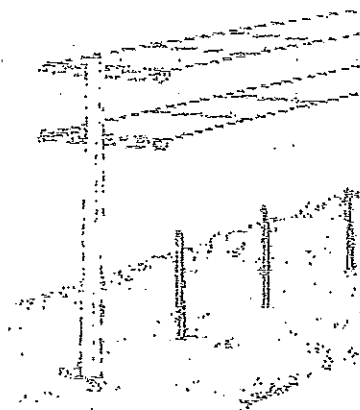


# RED RASPBERRIES

**Cultural Requirements:** Raspberries are susceptible to root rot. This is their major weakness and good soil tilth is the best way to prevent root rot. An existing row of raspberries in the garden will benefit from being "hilled up" by adding a depth of good quality well drained soil, or even quality potting soil, on top of the row to a depth of not more than 8 inches. This should be done in late February and into March before the new spring growth emerges from the crowns. The new growth will force through the topsoil and root into it. Cane growth is stimulated and possible root rot is minimized. Just pile the soil on top of the row and AVOID watering it in:

On new raspberry plantings a raised bed 8 to 10 inches high and 18 to 36 inches wide should be formed and the new raspberry starts planted into it 1 inch deeper than they grew in the nursery.

Researches have recently discovered that Gypsum Lime at a rate of 6 tons to the acre helps prevent root rot in raspberry plantings. The Calcium ion interferes with root rot development and Gypsum lime does not change the pH of the soil. In the garden this amounts to 4 ½ ounces of Gypsum Lime per square foot of garden. We suggest working the Gypsum into the soil that will form your raised bed. Once this has been done, plant your raspberries and don't fertilize until the plants actually begin growing. Raspberries only need 2 ounces of Nitrogen per 10 square feet of row. This amounts to only 22 ounces of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 10 square feet. Apply 11 ounces after the plants start growing and another 11 ounces 4 to six weeks later. This is all raspberries and blackberries need to grow their best!



**Planting Instructions:** When planing your raspberry bed, it is best to plan your rows to run in a north to south direction. This insures that one row will not shade out the other. This of course is not mandatory.

Spacing of your raspberries is recommend at 18 inches between the plants and 5 to 6 feet between the rows. Make certain that you dig your planting hole large enough so as to avoid wading the roots. Be sure any white sprouts growing from the crown of the new plants are covered at least 1 ½ inch deep. Do NOT water your raspberries in at this time. There is enough soil moisture to bring the plants out of dormancy. Water only when you see new growth breaking the ground. This will help prevent root rot in that a dormant plant is not transpiring water until the buds break.

**Pruning and Training:** Often only the shoots of suckers that start close to the original plant are allowed to grow, thus the canes are kept grouped together in the so-called hill. However, the home gardener may wish to let the hills grow together, thereby conserving space in the garden. Unwanted suckers arising too far from the mother plant may be grubbed out as they appear. After the first year when the raspberries are dormant, thin out the weaker or damaged canes leaving yourself 4 to 6 strong canes per hill.

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- 1 -

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