

CANEBERRIES

Caneberries include red and black raspberries, blackberries, and hybrids like boysenberries.

There are two different types of red raspberries: summer-bearing and fall-bearing. Summer-bearing (these also include black raspberries) types produce vegetative primocanes the first year that set flower buds in the fall. Canes overwinter and bear fruit the following summer. Overwintered primocanes that bear fruit the second year are referred to as floricanes. After fruiting is complete, the floricanes naturally die off.

Fall-bearing types, also known as “primocane” or “everbearing” raspberries, set flowers and bear fruit on first-year primocanes. These canes can be allowed to overwinter and will bear a second crop lower on the floricanes before dying off.

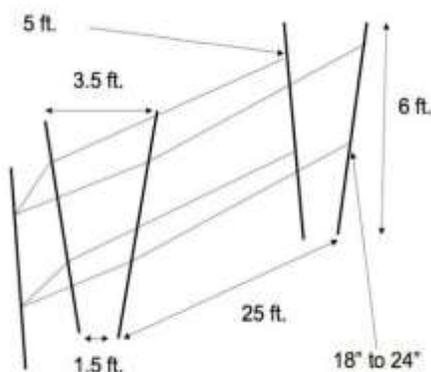
Blackberries are related to raspberries. They are perennials with extensive root systems and a biennial growth and fruiting habit. As with raspberries, they produce first year canes known as primocanes, with second year canes known as floricanes. After the floricanes have finished fruiting, they naturally die. Once established, blackberries consist of both primocanes and floricanes growing simultaneously. There are also primocane-fruiting blackberries.

Hybrids like logan and boysenberries have the same habit as blackberries.

Planting: Planting of caneberries is usually best accomplished in early spring or late winter, while the weather is still cool. Choose a site that receives plenty of sun, and where the soil drains well.

Raspberry: plants 2 feet apart in rows about 8 feet apart. Allow new primocanes to spread along the row, but don't let them spread farther than 12 inches to keep the raspberry row to the correct width.

Blackberry and Hybrids: For trailing cultivars, space plants 4 to 6 feet apart in the rows. Space erect cultivars 2 to 3 feet apart and semierect cultivars 5 to 6 feet apart. Leave about 10 feet between rows.



Trellising: Caneberries tend to be rangy if untended, so they typically benefit from being trellised or supported. The most common type of caneberry trellis is the V-trellis. The typical V-trellis design has steel posts set 20 to 30 degrees from vertical.

Water: Caneberries will need water the first year or two in order to get established, but remember that caneberries are very susceptible to root-rot, especially in heavier soils. Once established they typically benefit from drier soils, but they do enjoy some irrigation in hot dry summers.

Fertilizer: It is best to fertilize caneberries around bloom time in this area. Use fertilizer specific for berries for best production. Adding manure or compost is also a great alternative or addition, as it will help loosen and add organic matter to the soil.

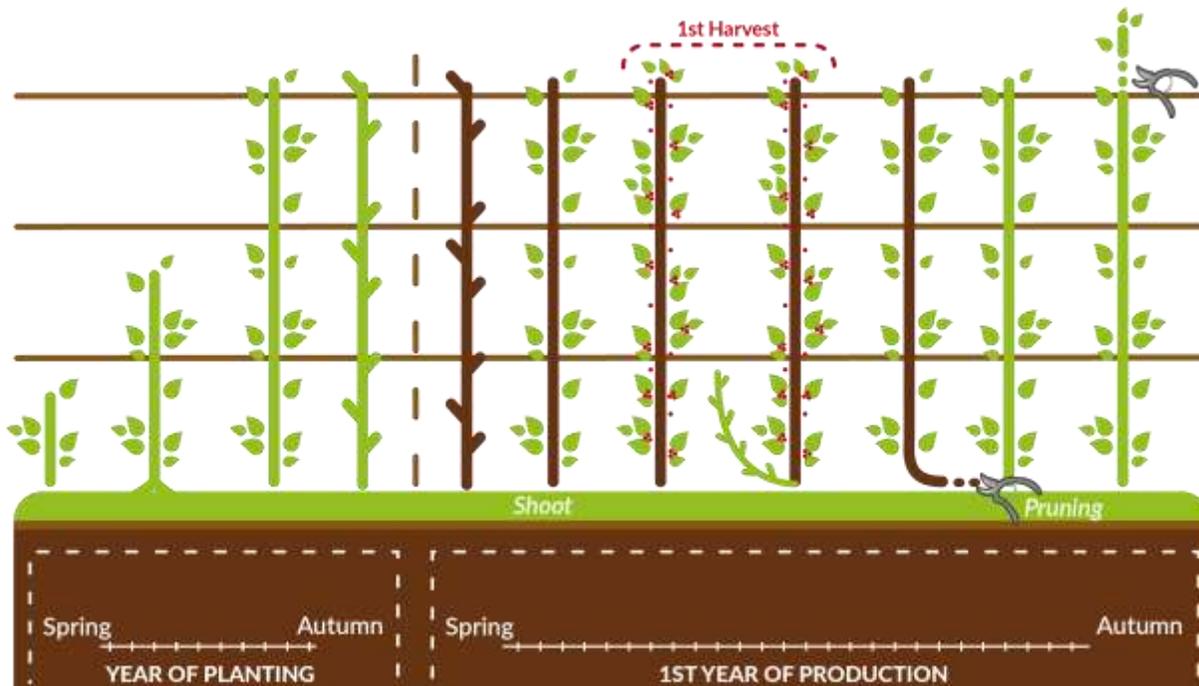
Pruning: Pruning of caneberries is crucial to successful fruiting.

Summer-Bearing Raspberry Pruning

Summer: once floricanes have fruited, prune them to the ground.

Dormancy (Autumn-Spring): select the best primocanes (6-8) and remove the rest.

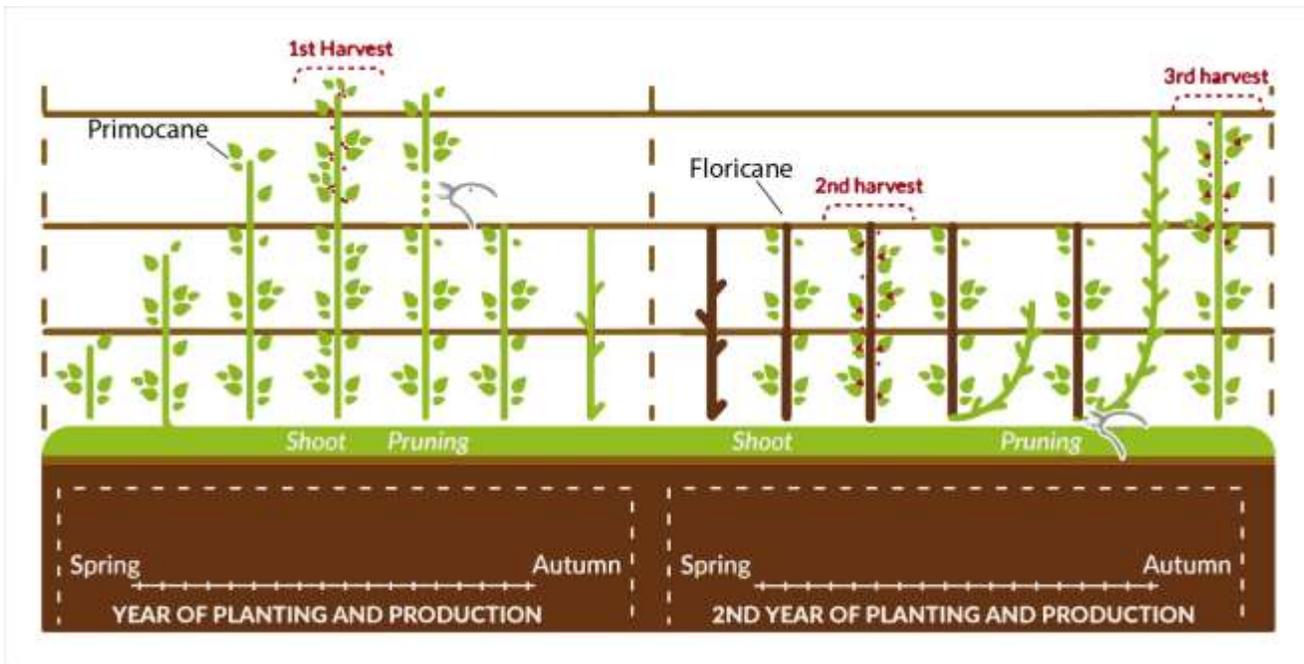
Late-Winter: thin the tips of primocanes (up to 30% depending on vigor). This helps boost fruit size in the following year.



Summer-bearing caneberry pruning

Fall-Bearing Raspberry Pruning

- You can prune your primocanes down to the ground every year after harvesting in autumn. This method produces one large crop each year.
- Alternatively, you can prune a stem below the fruiting area in autumn of the first year. This area will produce a small crop in the summer of the second year, after which it can be pruned down to the ground. The primocane emerging in the same year will produce a crop in autumn, where it can again be pruned below the fruiting area. This method produces two crops each year – a small one in summer and a larger one in autumn.



Fall-bearing caneberry pruning for 2 smaller crops a year

Blackberry Pruning

The majority of blackberries are summer-bearing and produce on floricanes. They are pruned much the same way as summer-bearing raspberries.

Summer: once floricanes have fruited, prune them to the ground.

Dormancy (Autumn-Spring): select the best primocanes (6-8) and remove the rest.

Late-Winter: thin the tips of primocanes (up to 30% depending on vigor). This encourages the production of fruiting laterals.

Black Raspberry Pruning

Black raspberries are treated similar to the summer-bearing raspberry also, with a few additions.

Late spring/early summer: remove the top 3 to 4 inches of primocanes. Top black raspberries to a height of about 3 feet.

Summer: top several times during the summer to catch all the primocanes, as they don't all grow at the same rate. With topping, primocanes will produce lateral branches. After harvest, remove all dead floricanes.

Dormancy: remove all damaged canes. Shorten lateral branches of both types to about 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 feet. Cut unbranched canes to about 3 feet.