

RASPBERRIES.

Soil.

For red raspberries, a deep loamy soil, well drained, and with a large moisture-holding capacity, is desirable. On the other hand, the black raspberry will do equally well on loamy soils and well-drained clayey soils. The same method of preparation of the soil as given for strawberries is applicable here. Deep cultivation and plowing is advisable before setting out a patch, especially on the heavier soils.

PROPAGATION.

The roots of the raspberry are perennial. In the case of the suckering varieties, the general method of obtaining plants is to dig up the one-year-old plants from the bearing patch. In some cases when growth has been sufficient, it is possible to transplant the young plants the same spring in which they start.

Black raspberries, commonly known as "black-cap," are propagated by bending the tip down to the ground and covering with a light layer of soil. This is usually done some time between the middle of September and the middle of October.

PLANTING.

Planting may be done in either the fall or the spring, all depending on the condition of the soil as to drainage and cultivation. The distance of planting will depend on the variety planted, soil, and district. As a rule, the red and black raspberries are planted in rows, 6 to 8 feet apart, and from 30 inches to 3 feet apart in the rows. The plants require pruning before setting, in the same way as a one-year-old apple-tree—i.e., roots trimmed and top cut back within 6 or 8 inches of the ground. Plants should be set from 3 to 5 inches deep, depending on the soil. Spread the roots and pack soil well around them. Care should be exercised in setting the tips of the black-cap varieties, in order to prevent them from being set too deep. If covered with more than 3 inches of soil they are apt to be smothered.

CULTIVATION AND PRUNING.

Cultivation : Start as soon as possible in the spring, and continue until early fall. The first year an intercrop may be used, but during the following years clean cultivation should be the practice. In the fall the earth should be ploughed up to the plants. During the winter an application of barnyard manure at the rate of 5 tons per acre is necessary, in order to ensure satisfactory growth; also an application of 200 lb. of muriate of potash applied in the spring is found to be beneficial in improving the shipping qualities of the crop.

Fruit is borne on the one-year-old wood, so that the canes are removed after bearing or in the early spring. The first method is preferable, as in this way danger from disease and insects is lessened, and the new canes obtain a stronger growth than they otherwise would. The following spring the young canes are thinned out to eight or ten canes to a hill, and these are cut back, the amount of top removed depending on the growth that has been made.