

a depth of eighteen to twenty inches from the surface, it must first be removed by underdrains, for nothing is more injurious to the raspberry than stagnant water at the root. This may seem strange to some, after having already said it delights in a moist soil, but plants make a great difference between moist and wet. A thoroughly under-drained clayey loam is the very best soil naturally for the most economical cultivation of this fruit. The plough should run as deep as possible, and if the plough can be followed by the subsoiler, right behind it, in the bottom of the furrow, so much the better.

The plants should be set in rows, six feet apart, and two feet apart in the row. Six feet may seem to be a great distance between the rows, but if the plants have proper culture it will soon be found not to be too much for convenient use of the cultivator. In a small garden, where the horse and cultivator cannot be used, rows may be set four feet apart. If set at two feet apart in the row, the plants will soon form a continuous hedge, and any suckers appearing between the rows, unless wanted for a new plantation, should be treated as weeds and thoroughly cut up.

The plants should be prepared for setting out, by cutting back the cane or top, to within three or four inches of the root. A growth of leaves or shoots is not wanted from this cane; such growth only serves to exhaust the plant; but what is wanted is a good strong growth of new shoots from the root. These will survive the winter and produce fruit the next summer, while all the growth from the top of old canes will only die when autumn comes, and if this top should bear fruit, as it very likely will, the effect is to exhaust the root and enfeeble, if not wholly ruin, the young root sprout that forms the cane for the next year. If no sprout comes from the roots, and survives the summer, though the top you plant may bear leaves, and shoot and fruit, in the autumn it will die and the whole plant with it.

The raspberry is a sort of biennial plant, the canes that come up from the root this season will bear fruit next summer and die in the autumn, and if from any cause no new canes come up during the summer to supply their place, there will be nothing to continue the plant another year and it wholly fails. For this reason it is best to cut away the top when planting, leaving only enough to show its position after it has been set out.

The cultivation during the first year after planting will consist in keeping the soil well stirred on the surface and free from weeds.

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