

## Blackberries



***Triple Crown*** is a joint release from the USDA-Beltsville and the Pacific West Agricultural Research Service. The plant is semi-erect and thornless and bears large, flavorful fruit. Early trials indicate that it may ripen earlier than Chester and is similar to Chester in winter hardiness. Triple Crown would be a good choice to help extend the blackberry season for home gardeners. Best in Zone 5 (-10° to -20°) - 9, excellent flavor, large berry size, medium firmness, good freezing quality.



***Chester blackberry*** The most winter hardy and productive thornless variety available. Chester produces large, high-quality fruit that ripens mid-late August. Fruit has excellent flavor and does not soften or lose its shiny black color in hot weather. Chester plants are vigorous and show resistance to cane blight. Best in Zone 5 (-10° to -20°) -9, excellent flavor, large berry size, firm, good freezing quality.

## The Brambles

Raspberries and blackberries are the group of cultivated fruit crops referred to as brambles. Brambles grow best on a sunny site in sandy loam soil. Although brambles tolerate a broad range of soil types, they require soil with good drainage.



### Encore Raspberry

A recent release of the N.Y. State Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y. With moderate winter hardiness and fruiting in late mid-season, Encore berries are large, very coherent droplets, with good raspberry flavor. Plants are vigorous, sturdy, upright, and nearly spineless. Encore is a good choice for extending the summer raspberry-picking season. Plants per family of four: 10 - 25.



## Raspberries - Comparison Chart

These varieties carry one crop of berries on the over-wintering canes during the summer months. Plants begin fruiting in the early summer. The season lasts 4-5 weeks when more than one type of Summer Bearing (Early Season, Midseason, Late season, etc) are planted.

<b>Summer Reds</b>	Berry Size	Zones	Firmness	Flavor	Freezing Qty
Boyne	Medium	3-8	Moderate	Excellent	Good
<b>Encore</b>	Large	4-8	Firm	Good	Good
Nova	Med/Large	3-8	Very	Good	Good
<b>Prelude</b>	Med/Large	4-8	Firm	Excellent	Good

### Prelude Raspberry

Recently released by the N.Y. State Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y. It is the earliest ripening summer red raspberry. Although Prelude is also fall-bearing, it produces the biggest portion of its crop in the spring. Very winter hardy and vigorous, Prelude berries are round-conic, coherent, with very good flavor. An excellent choice when earliness and quality are required. # Plants for Family of Four: 10-25

## The Brambles: Raspberries, continued



***Autumn Britten***

Originates in Great Britain. It ripens before Caroline and Heritage, bearing fruit from late summer through the fall. It has a very large, very firm and coherent berry that is flavorful. Autumn Britten has shown to be winter hardy in trials at Nourse Farms. Plants are moderately vigorous, and we recommend planting at 22"-24" in-row spacing.

A common cause of death in brambles is the disease *Phytophthora* root rot, which tends to infect plants predisposed by "wet feet" - meaning there is standing water in the subsoil. Keeping the planting free of disease is most important for successful growth.

Because the principal source of disease is wild brambles, choose a site far from woodlots and old fields and, if possible, destroy all wild brambles growing within 500 feet of your site.

Set plants at least 30 inches apart within rows, 9 to 10 feet between rows, and 1 inch deeper than grown in the nursery. Plant rooted canes early in spring.

Remove old canes which may be attached to the new plant, because they are a source of disease.



***Caroline Raspberry***

This is the variety that is the new standard for judging fall-bearing varieties. Caroline has a larger berry than Heritage and is more productive, with a rich, full, and intense raspberry flavor. Caroline is a very vigorous variety of raspberry, with more tolerance for root rot than Heritage. It also fruits earlier than Heritage

These varieties produce two crops; the largest is borne in the late summer/early fall on the tips of canes that grew through out the summer. A second crop is then carried lower on those same canes early the next summer. To have two crops, the planting must be pruned as a summer bearer. Most will produce the best crop if NOT allowed to fruit in early summer.

<i>Everbearing or Fall Bearing reds</i>	Berry Size	Zones	Firmness	Flavor	Freezing Quality
Autumn Britten	Large	3-7	Firm	Excellent	Good
Caroline	Large	4-7	Moderate	Excellent	Good
Heritage	Med/Large	4-8	Firm	Good	Good
Polana	Large	3-8	Moderate	Good	Good

Place a ridge of soil along each row one month after planting. Do not fertilize for several weeks after planting, and water liberally because brambles have shallow root systems.

Brambles are easily injured by too much fertilizer. Apply no more than 5 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 linear feet of row the first year and no more than 10 pounds in subsequent years. Apply fertilizer only in the early spring before flowering.



***Polana Raspberry***

**Polana is at least three weeks earlier than Heritage, Polana allows you to grow fall varieties in more northern locations and still produce a great crop. Released from Poland, its berries are highly productive, large, glossy in appearance, coherent, with good flavor. Canes are vigorous and grow shorter than those of Heritage. Ripens late July in southern**