

# New Gippsland Seeds & Bulbs



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## **BRAMBLE CULTURAL NOTES**

The group of plants known as BRAMBLES includes many specific types, amongst which are Boysenberries, Youngberries, Loganberries, Silvanberries (also called American Blackberries), Lawtonberries, Thornfree Blackberries and Tayberries. .

**CROPPING TIMES** - Under Southern Victorian conditions the following cropping times can be expected.

**Silvanberry** - December

**Loganberry** - December

**Youngberry** - Mid December to early January

**Boysenberry** - Late December into January

**Lawtonberry** - Late December to early February

**Thornfree Blackberry** - February and March

**Tayberry** - December & January

**SITE** - Good deep well drained soil is best, with plenty of sunshine and protection from strong winds. Incorporation of organic matter will assist in heavier soils, and mulching will be beneficial in all cases.

**SPACING** - Allow 1.5 to 2 metre between plants.

**SOIL PREPARATION** - Early preparation incorporating 2 kg of Poultry Manure per square metre some months before planting is beneficial. Full control of perennial weeds like Couch grass is required on the site. The addition of 100 g per sq.m. of a complete fertiliser like NPK 12-5-15 is helpful , again some months before planting.

**PLANTING** - Ideally in June and July, but this is not always possible. While new plants often look thin, they should grow vigorously. Weed matting or black polythene can be used around the plants to help control weeds. Plants may be either "Tips" or divided canes. Care needs to be taken with tips to avoid damaging the growth bud found among the root mass. Carefully plant tips so the soil is 3 cm. above the root ball. The exposed stem will normally not grow, but rather the growth shoot should appear through the soil in Spring. Canes can be planted out so the root area is 5 to 8 cm below soil level. In both cases water in after planting.

**MAINTENANCE** - Apply a dressing of complete fertiliser early each Spring, with a dressing of animal manure in late Winter.

**PRUNING AND TRELLISING** - A trellis should be erected with sturdy posts at each end, between which is strung two wires the first being 75 cm. above the ground, the second 75 cm. higher. New seasons growth is wrapped around these wires in Winter after removing all the old canes that have borne fruit. Handle carefully with gloves and avoid snapping the canes.

**WATERING** - Good supplies are essential from flowering to harvest, with lesser quantities being required at other times. Drip or Micro irrigation works well.

**DISEASE CONTROL** - Various leaf spotting diseases may need Copper sprays at around leaf burst for effective control. Thrips can infest flowers causing deformed fruit. Spray with Rogor or Pyrethrums to reduce their numbers.