

**New Gippsland
Seeds & Bulbs**



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Cultural Notes for **RASPBERRIES**

Raspberries can be divided into two main groups, the Summer fruiting types and the Autumn fruiting types. Summer fruiting varieties bear mainly on the previous seasons growth while the Autumn fruiting varieties crop on the current seasons growth.

METHOD - By Planting "Canes" purchased from a reputable source to reduce the risk of root borne disease.

SITE - Sheltered, but not heavily shaded, with protection from hot drying winds.

SOIL - Deep friable loam is best, but plants will grow well in other types providing soil moisture and organic matter levels are maintained. Good drainage is essential.

PREPARATION - Beds should be prepared as early as possible in the season to obtain a good tilth. Work in 1.2 kg of poultry manure to each square metre of bed, preferably 6 weeks before planting. Immediately before planting apply a high nitrogen fertiliser, eg NPK 12:5:15 or similar, at around 100 grams per square metre.

PLANTING - Canes are best planted between early June and the end of August, in clumps of 3 canes, 75 cm apart, or single canes every 30 cm. Allow 1.2 metres between rows in the home garden, but 2.5 metres in larger plantings. Plant the cane so the rooted portion is 5 to 10 cm below the soil surface.

PRUNING - WILLIAMETTE and NOOTKA are pruned each year when dormant by cutting out all the old canes that have fruited in the previous season, leaving the new canes to bear fruit. If the cane numbers are excessive, thin or dig out as required. The remaining canes can be bundled and tied to a support wire. These varieties fruit in November/December and again in Autumn.

-HERITAGE and SMOOTHY. Remove all canes 2 or 3 cm above soil level in winter. The new growth begins bearing from late summer.

HARVESTING - Pick individual fruit as they ripen.

MAINTENANCE - Dress annually with poultry manure in winter, plus a dressing of a complete artificial fertiliser at 150 g/sq.m. in early spring. Keep weed free. Little other work is required.

PESTS & DISEASES - Bordeaux or other Copper sprays will prevent most leaf spotting diseases, while Thiram sprayed every 4 weeks from budburst (1.5g/litre) will give good clean plants. Grubs sometimes appear, but are rarely a problem. Spray with Pyrethrums if required.