

Fruit Care

Blackberry Care:

- Blackberries grow well in any good soil.
- They should be planted 3.5 feet apart in rows.
- Mulch to retain moisture. Consistent water & nutrient supply are necessary.
- Fertilize before new growth appears mid-spring and again in mid-summer.
- Canes do best if supported to keep fruit off the ground.
- In spring, remove canes that fruit the previous year and prune remaining canes to 5 feet.

Grape Care:

- Grapes require maximum sunlight, adequate fertility, and annual pruning for optimum production. Grapes prefer a light, fertile soil with good drainage.
- Canes need support on a fence or trellis. Build a support with the lowest wire about 18" off the ground and 2-3 more wires about 18" apart.
- The following spring after planting, tie the strongest shoot to the lowest wire and then cut back to the first bud above the wire.
- The 2nd spring, select the strongest shoot and tie to the next wire, and cut back to the first bud above that wire. Tie the 2 strongest side shoots to the lowest wire and cut back to 6 or 7 buds. Remove all other growth.
- The 3rd spring, select the strongest shoot and tie it to the next wire, and cut back to the first bud above that wire. Next tie the 2 strongest side shoots to the 2nd wire and cut back to 6 or 7 buds.
- Continue until you get to the top of your fence. Every spring, select 2 new shoots near each wire, cut back to 6 or 7 buds, and remove all other growth.

Raspberry Care:

- Raspberries require full sun and well-drained, fertile soil.
- Plant 2.5-3 feet apart in the row.
- Caroline is an everbearing variety which will produce late June and again in the fall if pruned properly.
- However, most people literally "mow off" the canes in the spring. This eliminates the June crop, but the fall harvest will be much longer.
- If pruned in the spring, Caroline starts bearing mid-August and will last until frost.
- Generally Caroline does not need support.

Rhubarb Care:

- Rhubarb grows best in rich, moist soil.
- The crown should be planted shallow.
- Stalks should not be harvested the first summer.
- To harvest, pull the stalks - do not cut them.
- Rhubarb is a heavy feeder and will benefit from an application of manure or high nitrogen fertilizer.

