



RASPBERRY CULTIVARS FOR OREGON

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There are two types of red raspberry: summer-bearing and fall-bearing. Summer-bearing types have biennial canes—they grow one year (*primocane*), and produce fruit the following year (*floricane*). Floricanes die after they have fruited.

In fall-bearing types, the primocanes produce a fall crop on the top portion of the cane. The following summer, the remaining portion of the cane produces fruit; the floricane then dies. Fall-bearing cultivars (varieties) can be grown for both a summer and a fall crop. However, if you want a large crop of good quality fruit in both the summer and fall, plant both a summer-bearing and a fall-bearing cultivar.

If you're a home gardener, see EC 1306 for more information. If you're a commercial grower, see PNW 176.

This publication lists and briefly describes raspberry (*Rubus* sp.) cultivars. Cultivars differ in fruit characteristics, time of ripening, plant growth habit, tolerance to various pests, and harvest suitability (home garden production, commercial production, or machine harvest).

The descriptions given are brief and are intended to serve only as a guide in choosing a cultivar that's appropriate for your needs; the performance of a cultivar often varies with location.

Because we intend this publication for both the home gardener and the commercial grower, it includes information about how well

each cultivar is suited for mechanical harvest. If you're a home gardener, feel free to skip the information about mechanical harvest.

Commercial growers should check with their county office of the OSU Extension Service and their processor before purchasing cultivars for commercial production.

SUMMER-BEARING CULTIVARS

Canby. Fruit is medium to large, bright red and moderately firm; suitable for home freezing and canning; berries lack firmness required for a commercial processed product; very susceptible to root rot. Fruit shakes off easily for machine harvest, but fruit may be too soft for a good harvested product.

Chilcotin. Fruit is large, bright red, fairly firm; suitable for fresh market and processing; long harvest season; more productive than Willamette; susceptible to root rot. May be suitable for mechanical harvest although fruit sometimes doesn't detach readily, and laterals may break.

Chilliwack. Fruit is large, bright red, firm, good to excellent flavor; good for fresh market and processing; fruit has considerable resistance to postharvest fruit rot; vigorous canes, nearly spine-free; good hardiness; productivity about equal to Willamette; some root rot resistance. Well suited for machine harvest.

Comox. Fruit is large, medium red, moderately firm, acceptable flavor; good for fresh market and processing; fruit has

considerable resistance to postharvest fruit rot; more productive than Willamette; highly susceptible to root rot. May not be as suitable as some other commercial cultivars for machine harvest.

Haida. Fruit is medium-sized, medium red, firm, good flavor; suitable for freezing, fair for canning and preserves; ripens a few days later than Willamette and is more productive in some areas; hardier than Willamette; some root rot resistance. Unpredictable results for machine harvest.

Meeker. Fruit is medium to large, medium to dark red, firm, good flavor; suitable for freezing, canning, and preserves; later ripening and higher yielding than Willamette; less susceptible to root rot than Willamette; more susceptible to winter injury than Sumner or

There are two names for a raspberry cane, depending on whether the cane is in its first year of growth or second.

Primocanes: first year of growth; only fall-fruited raspberries produce fruit on primocanes in the fall.

Floricanes: second year of growth; these produce fruit on branches. Both summer-bearing and fall-bearing raspberries produce fruit on floricanes.

Willamette. Suitable for machine harvest although long laterals may break.

Newburgh. Fruit is large, light red in color and medium firm; not acceptable for commercial production but good for home garden use; resistant to root rot.

Nootka. Fruit is medium-sized, medium red and moderately firm; suitable for processing; longer harvest season than Willamette; more productive and more winter-hardy than Willamette; susceptible to root rot. Fruit shakes off easily for mechanical harvest.

Skeena. Fruit is medium to large, bright red, firm, good flavor; suitable for fresh market, freezing, canning, and preserves; longer harvest season than Willamette; more productive than and as winter-hardy as Willamette; highly susceptible to root rot; canes nearly spine-free. Plant growth habit, such as strong fruit laterals, make it suitable for mechanical harvest, but fruit does not detach as easily as some other commercial cultivars.

Summer. Fruit is medium-sized, medium red, firm, sweet, intense flavor; suitable for freezing, preserves, and canning; harvest time similar to Meeker; most tolerant variety for heavy, poorly drained soils and hardier than Meeker or Willamette. Fruit doesn't detach or shake off easily, so it's not suitable for machine harvest.

Willamette. Fruit is large, dark red, fairly firm, lacks intense raspberry flavor; well suited for canning, slightly dark for freezing and

preserves; ripens early; susceptible to root rot and doesn't produce well in heavy soils.

Suitable for machine harvest.

FALL-FRUITING CULTIVARS

Amity. Ripens up to 1 week earlier than Heritage and fruits for a month or until frost; fruit is medium-sized, medium-dark red, very firm, good flavor; good quality for freezing, preserves, processing, fresh market, and shipping; canes can be vigorous and benefit from trellis support; canes are almost spine-free; susceptibility to root rot equal to Meeker, but less than Canby. Fruit doesn't detach easily at optimum maturity, so it's not adapted for machine harvest.

Augustred. Early; ripens end of July or first week in August; fruit is medium, bright, light red, soft, good flavor; plants are hardy, short, stocky, and self-supporting. Suitable for home garden.

Fallgold. Ripens 10 days prior to Heritage; fruit is yellow, moderately firm, very good flavor; fruit is softer and productivity less than Heritage; plants are very hardy. Not adapted for machine harvest.

Fallred. Ripens about 2 weeks earlier than Heritage; fruit is small, red, fairly firm, good flavor; plants are vigorous, productive, and require support. Not adapted for machine harvest.

Heritage. Moderate summer crop with a much larger fall crop; ripens in late August to early September; fruit is medium, red, very firm, attractive, of very good flavor; excellent quality for freezing, canning, and preserves; plants are vigorous—sturdy canes require no support; hardy. Not adapted for machine harvest.

Indian Summer. Fruit is red, very aromatic, crumbles frequently, good flavor; suitable for jam; moderately productive, vigorous. For home garden use.

Redwing. Ripens 2 weeks earlier than Heritage; fruit is medium, red, firm, good flavor; suitable for freezing, canning, and preserves; productivity equal to or slightly less than Heritage; summer crop is small; vigorous canes benefit from support. Not adapted for machine harvest.

September. Fruit is medium, bright red, firm, attractive, good quality; summer crop is early, but not equal in quality to fall crop or summer-bearing cultivars. Suitable for home gardens.

Summit. Matures about 10 days earlier than Heritage; fruit is similar in size and firmness to, but slightly darker than, Heritage.

FOR FURTHER READING

These publications are available from Agricultural Communications, Publications Orders, Administrative Services Bldg. 422, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119. Please add 25¢ shipping and handling for orders up to \$2.50. For orders between \$2.50 and \$100, add 15% shipping and handling. For orders of \$100 or more, please call (503) 754-2513 for a price quote.

EC 1303, *Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden*, by Bernadine C. Strik, Oregon State University Extension Service publication (Corvallis, 1989). 75¢

PNW 176, *Commercial Red Raspberry Production*, William P.A. Sheer, editor, Pacific Northwest Extension publication (Washington State University, Pullman, 1982). \$1.00

What if you find a cultivar that's not on this list?

Find out some of the plant growth and fruit characteristics:

- Is it a summer-bearing or fall-bearing type?
- Does the nursery's description indicate that it's susceptible to any diseases, such as root rot or viruses?
- What's the fruit like?
- Is it machine-harvestable (commercial growers)?

Remember: If you purchase a cultivar that's not on this list, it probably hasn't been extensively tested in Oregon. It's best to *try* a few plants first; see if they grow well and if you like the fruit.

Trade-name cultivars are listed as illustrations only. The OSU Extension Service does not endorse any listed cultivar or intend any discrimination against others not listed.

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