

Instructions for planting plants:

A. BLUEBERRY

1. Preparation is most important step in planting.
2. Soil pH must be 4.5 to 5.5. If there is a doubt what the pH of your soil is, it is best to amend the soil with Canadian Peat Moss and Pine Bark mixed.
3. Dig a hole 12-24 inches deep and diameter.
4. Mix Canadian peat moss with fine Pine Bark (Use 1 ½ inch and lower sized pine bark) Mix the peat bark 50:50.
5. Fill the hole with 50 to 75% of the Peat and Bark amendment and finish filling the hole with the soil that was removed from the hole. If the soil is clay, substitute sand for filling the hole.
6. Mix the soil and the amendment evenly, leaving approximately 3-4 inches of the amended soil above the top of the existing soil. The reason for this, amendments settle as they becomes moistened and decomposes so leaving the soil 3 to 4 inches higher will prevent the plant from growing in a depressed area.
7. The soil should be moistened but not soaking wet before planting.
8. Remove the plant from the plastic container.
9. The root system may be tight and growing in a circular motion from the container. It is best to separate the roots so they are open so the circular motion of the roots can be trained to grow outward into the soil.
10. Remove some soil from the hole, going 2-4 inches deeper than the plant roots.
11. Place the plant in the bottom of the hole and begin to fill the hole with the amended soil.
12. After the soil is in the hole, pull the plant up to the desired level and firm the soil around the roots of the plant.
13. The desired level of the plant should be planted no deeper than when it was growing in the container it was removed from. Usually, the top of the root should be ¼ to ½ inch below the soil level.
14. After planting, apply water to the plant so as to settle the soil around the root system.
15. The plants can be mulched with pine bark or other wood chips. Do not use hardwood bark as a mulch.
16. Plant spacing can be 32 to 48 inches in row, and any aisle spacing that you need. 4 feet of an aisle will be lost to branches when the plants are mature. Example: 8 feet aisles will give 4 feet of an aisle at maturity.
17. DO NOT APPLY FERTILIZERS IN THE PLANTING HOLE

B. RASPBERRY AND BLACKBERRY

1. Preparation is the most important step in planting.

2. Soil pH must be 5.0 to 6.8. Most soils are of the desired pH so there is no need to amend soils.
3. If the soil is clay or poorly drained it is recommended to work in wood chips in the 24 inch planting area. Do not use hardwood chips. Conifer or softwood are the best or a mixture of conifer, softwood and 30% of less hardwood.
4. Raspberries roots are shallow growing. IT is important to eradicate weeds and grasses before planting. Roundup can be applied to green growing weeds 5-7 days prior to planting.
5. For plants grown in 2 ½ inch containers, dig a furrow or individual holes for the plants 3 inches deep.
6. Tease the root system open so the roots can grow outward.
7. Place the plant in the bottom of the hole, fill the hole with soil, pull the plant to the desired level and firm the soil around the roots.
8. The planting depth should be no more that ¼ to ½ inch below the top of the root.
9. After planting apply a good amount of water to settle the soil around the roots.
10. The plants can be mulched same as blueberry to prevent weed control and conserve moisture.
11. Plant Spacing 24 inches in row. Aisle spacing 4 to 10 feet. There will be approximately 36 inches of aisle lost when the plants are mature. A 6 feet aisle will give 3 feet of walking space at maturity.
12. Raspberry plant roots will spread outward and in the row 24 inches or more. The roots can be controlled to grow 24 inches or less if desired. The blackberry grow much like a blueberry plant with the crown of the plant remaining in an area 12 inches or more.
13. DO NOT APPLY ANY FERTILIZERS IN THE PLANTING HOLE.

C. Fertilizers:

1. If plants are planted in the spring, fertilize the plants 7-10 days after planting, or wait until green growth appears if the plants are dormant.
2. Fertilizer for the first 2 years:
 - a. 20-20-20 water soluble. Use 1 tbsp. per gallon of water, mix well and apply 8-16 ounces on each blueberry and blackberry plant, and 8-16 ounces in 1 linear foot for the raspberries.
 - b. All of these plants will grow well with organic fertilizers such as fish oil, kelp, molasses. These products can be used in place of or combined with the 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer.
 - c. Apply the fertilizer 1 time every week when leaves emerge in the spring until 4 weeks before the predicted fall frost.
 - d. Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0-22) is a form of Nitrogen with sulfur which is the preferred fertilizer for blueberries and other plants. Apply ½ to 1 ounce of this product per plant, scattering the granular fertilizer around the dripline of the plant.