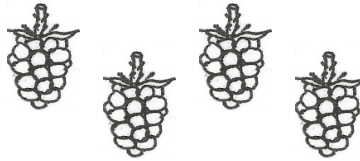


Renfrow Hardware

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Brambles: Blackberries & Raspberries

Backyard berries are easy to grow and have very few pest problems. Fresh berries are sweeter than their grocery store counterparts and far more nutritious.

Variety Selection: Thornless vs thorny and erect vs semi-erect/trailing growth habits are the two main decision you will need to make for blackberry varieties. Berry color is the major decision for raspberries. See our Variety Charts (next page) for details about all of the varieties we carry at Renfrow's.

Site Selection: All brambles need to grow in a sunny location; consider their beds permanent. Set each plant about 4 feet apart and let them grow and flop - or train them up on various designs of cages or trellises. They will usually fruit the second year and several years thereafter.

Care: Fertilize lightly (with Plant-Tone organic fertilizer) and mulch heavily. You can go overboard using sophisticated trellising systems like a commercial grower would do, but we suggest you keep it simple and let them grow more like Mother Nature prefers. **Remember, brambles ramble.** Fine-tune your system later.

After your plant's first fruiting, cut out about 1/3 to 1/2 of the biggest, oldest canes each year. The younger, more vigorous canes produce plenty of berries. These plants will spread a lot so either cut off the daughter plants or dig them up and transplant elsewhere. Aggressively cut your plants back every few years to encourage new growth. Eventually you will need to move your berry patch to a spot with new soil.

All blackberries and raspberries are self-fertile and do not need a pollinator. We suggest planting several varieties to have a wider "harvest window." The varieties below are available most seasons at Renfrow's. Some years other varieties also appropriate for the NC/SC Piedmont will be available.