



Growing Long Cane Raspberry Canes

A Practical Guide for British Gardeners

Introduction

Raspberries are a popular fruit among British gardeners, prized for their sweet flavour and versatility in desserts, jams, and fresh eating. Long cane raspberry canes are a particularly attractive option, as they can produce fruit in their first season and offer higher yields compared to traditional short canes. This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to successfully grow long cane raspberry canes in your garden.

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Glen Ample. These are known for their robust growth, disease resistance, and excellent fruit quality.
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Preparing the Planting Site

- Location: Choose a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Raspberries prefer slightly acidic soil (pH 6.0–6.5).
- Soil Preparation: Dig in plenty of organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or compost, a few weeks before planting. Remove any weeds and ensure the area is free from perennial weeds, which can compete for nutrients.
- Spacing: Plant long cane raspberry canes about 45–60 cm apart, with rows spaced 1.5–2 m apart to allow good air circulation.

Planting Long Cane Raspberry Canes

1. Soak the roots of your raspberry canes in water for an hour before planting.
2. Dig a hole deep enough to accommodate the roots without bending them.
3. Place the cane in the hole, ensuring the roots are spread out and the base of the stem is just below soil level.
4. Backfill with soil, firming gently around the roots.
5. Water thoroughly after planting.

Training and Supporting Long Canes

Long cane raspberries benefit from support to keep the canes upright and facilitate fruiting:

- Install a post and wire system with wires at 60 cm and 120 cm heights.

- Gently tie the canes to the wires using soft garden twine, avoiding tight knots that could damage the stems.

Watering and Feeding

Raspberries require consistent watering, especially during dry spells and fruiting season. Mulch around the base to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Apply a balanced fertiliser in early spring to encourage healthy growth and fruiting.

Pruning and Maintenance

1. After fruiting, cut the fruited canes down to ground level to make way for new growth.
2. Thin out weak or overcrowded shoots to promote airflow and reduce the risk of disease.
3. Remove any damaged or diseased canes promptly.

Pest and Disease Management

Keep an eye out for common raspberry pests such as aphids, raspberry beetle, and spider mites. Diseases to watch for include raspberry cane blight and spur blight. Practise good hygiene by removing old fruiting canes and any fallen debris, and avoid wetting the foliage when watering.

Harvesting

Long cane raspberry canes often produce fruit in their first summer after planting. Pick the berries when they are fully coloured and come away easily from the stem. Regular harvesting encourages further fruit production.

Conclusion

Growing long cane raspberry canes is an excellent way to enjoy a bountiful harvest of sweet, juicy berries in your garden. With careful site preparation, regular maintenance, and timely harvesting, you can look forward to delicious raspberries season after season.