



Urban Harvest

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Raspberries (Tropical Black Raspberries)



American raspberries do not fruit well in our area because of summer heat. However, the Mysore semi-tropical black raspberry grows and fruits well here. It is a large rampant shrub, growing between 10 and 15 ft high unless you prune it. The branches are flexible and, when young, downy. The branches are thoroughly covered with thorns and have oval leaves composed of 5 to 9 leaflets each. The leaves are long and toothed, dark green on top with white, hairy undersides and have the classic raspberry look. The flowers are pink to red-purple with five petals and the stems look very similar to black raspberries found in the American north.

Care of Raspberry Plants

Mysore raspberry needs excellent drainage or it will die in the occasional summer flood rain. Plant them two to four feet apart, tied to 1-2 tall metal stakes. Mulch is helpful to retain moisture as well as for weed control. The shrub fruits better and has a sweeter more distinct taste when grown in the shade. Summer fruits are not as desirable as winter, so pruning is recommended during the summer months. This allows the fruit to produce almost continuously from February to May or June rather than year-round. Harvesting should be done when the fruit is fully black and separates easily and cleanly from the stem. The fruit should not be harvested when wet and is highly perishable, so make jam, freeze, or eat shortly after harvesting.

Varieties

Mysore The fruit is rounded with a slight cone shape, red when unripe and a purple to black color when ripe. Creates a very fine bloom. Fruit is juicy and sweet with a very mild black-raspberry flavor. Clusters may contain two dozen or even more, and seeds are small and edible

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2311 Canal Street, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77003, 713.880.5540, urbanharvest.org