

BRAMBLES

Variety Selection:

Thornless vs thorny and erect vs semi-erect/trailing growth habits are the two main decisions 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.

2023 Raspberry Varieties:

Caroline¹	Large firm fruit, vigorous, early everbearer, self pollinating
Crimson Giant¹	Large red fruit, late ripening, self pollinating, requires full sun
Crimson Night¹	Medium to large, mid season ripening, deep red fruit, self pollinating, requires full sun
Fall Gold¹	Pale yellow fruit, very good flavor, mid to late season, extra large fruit, pairs well with Caroline
Munger Black²	Strong stout canes yield large, firm and juicy <i>black</i> berries with small seeds. Cold-hardy. Ripens in August. Self-pollinating

2023 Blackberry Varieties:

Thornless Erect	Thornless Semi-Erect <i>Requires more trellising than regular erect varieties</i>	Thorny Erect <i>Mid to late July</i>
Apache² : Thornless, erect, large fruit, very good flavor, 10-11% sugar content, five week ripening period, high yielding	Prime Ark Freedom¹ : Thornless, early ripening, large fruit, self pollinating	Kiowa² : Thorny, erect, large fruit, very good flavor, 9-10% sugar content, fruit ripens mid season over five to six week window, high yielding
Arapaho² : Thornless, erect, medium sized fruit, 9-10% sugar content, early ripening for four week period	Prime Ark Traveler¹ : Thornless, early ripening, upright growth, self-pollinating	
Navaho² : Thornless, erect, medium fruit, 11-12% sugar content, fruit ripens mid season over a five to six week period, firm fruit is excellent for storage and handling	Triple Crown² : Thornless, late ripening, large fruits, vigorous, self pollinating	

*These charts reflect the varieties most often available at Renfrow's. This changes each season based on availability, with the largest selection available in autumn and winter. Be sure to check our online availability or give us a call if you have your mind set on a specific variety.

- 1) **Primocane** varieties set fruit on the first year's canes as well as second year canes
- 2) **Florican** varieties set fruit only on the second year's cane growth