New canes grow up from the roots in 4-6 weeks. These new canes will produce fruit next Summer.

Space the original plants 3’ – 4’ apart in the row.

New canes grow from the base each Spring.

Blackberry Plant Spacing

SPACING
3’ – 4’ between plants
8’ – 12’ between rows

Graphics by Janna Thompson, Nourse Farms
Step 1:
Remove grass / weeds from planting area and build raised beds if necessary.
(For best results, do this step in the Autumn prior to Spring planting.)

Step 2:
Build your trellis.
(This may be done anytime from planting through the Spring of the following year.)

Prepare Your Planting Area for Blackberries and Black Raspberries

- Raspberries grow best in well-drained loam or sandy-loam soil, rich in organic matter. If organic matter is required, mix in some well-aged compost or manure a few weeks prior to planting or in the Autumn prior to planting.
- Build raised beds if your soil is slow to drain after a rain or if you have heavier soil or clay soil.
- Check soil pH. Optimum pH: 6.5 – 6.8
- Do not fertilize too close to your planting date. Mix ½ lb - ¾ lb 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. at least 2 - 3 weeks prior to planting or the Fall prior to planting.
- Trellising is advised for all bramble crops!
- Access to water is important. Plants will need irrigation at planting and throughout the growing season.

Don't forget to check your soil pH!
Step 1:
In a sunny location, remove grass / weeds from planting area and measure 2ft wide rows with 8 – 12ft wide aisles.

Step 2:
Dig a narrow trench down the center of each row.

Step 3:
Position plants 3’ – 4” apart and press soil firmly around the roots.

Planting Nursery Mature Blackberry Plants

The plant should be in the ground deeply enough that the upper-most roots coming out of the cane are covered by approximately ½ inch of soil.

Soak in water for no more than 1-2 hrs before planting. You may mix Agri-gel™ into the water prior to soaking the plants.

Water thoroughly after planting.

Your bare-root plants will look like this. Plant them 3’ – 4’ apart along the row. Like this: L L L L.
Maintain Your Blackberry Plants

IRRIGATION
• 1” - 2” rainfall or equivalent per week throughout the growing season

FERTILIZATION
• At least 2 weeks prior to planting, incorporate ½-¾ lb of 10-10-10 per 100 sq ft of row
• Commercial growers should use 500 lbs per acre
• An additional 1lb of 10-10-10 per 100 sq ft can be applied in July or August and in early Spring in following years
• Regularly check and maintain the soil pH. The optimum pH range is 6.0 - 6.5

WEED CONTROL
• Regular cultivation is necessary during growing the season
• Roots are shallow--don’t cultivate more than an inch deep
• Contact your local extension for chemical recommendations
• We do not recommend mulching your bramble plants after the establishment year

TRELLIS
• We strongly recommend keeping plants supported by a trellis

PRUNING
• Tip first-year canes when they reach 5ft in the Summer. Laterals on the first-year canes should be cut to approximately 12” in late Autumn.
• After harvest, cut canes that fruited at the base of the plant.
• Cut any weak, damaged or diseased canes at the base.
• Cut more canes if needed so only 6 – 8 canes stand per running yard of row.