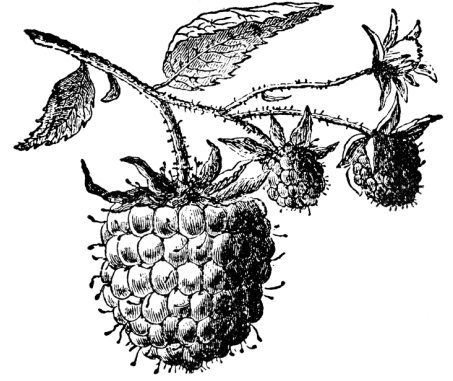


What are these plants?

These are raspberries, specifically “summer-bearing” raspberries. They usually begin fruiting in June or July, and continue producing fruit for 4-5 weeks. Other varieties of raspberries not planted here bear fruit either only in the fall, from about August through October (“fall-bearing” raspberries) or from June until October (“everbearing” raspberries). Blackberries (not planted here) are closely related to raspberries but are grown somewhat differently.



How were they planted? How are they being cared for?

We don't have records on how these particular plants were planted, but in general, raspberries should be planted in April or May, spaced 45-60 cm (18-24 in) apart in soil from which all grass and other weeds have been removed. About 0.7 kg (1.5 lbs) of a typical organic fertilizer (something containing approximately 5 percent each of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) should be applied at planting to each 10 square meters (100 square ft) of raspberry bed. For maximum production, an additional 0.5 kg (1 lb) of the same fertilizer can be applied in July or August of the same year and in March or April of subsequent years. Plants should be watered well after planting and regularly through the fruiting season if there is not adequate rain (about 2-4 cm or 1-2 inches a week).

To maintain productivity, raspberry stems, or “canes,” should be pruned every year. Summer-bearing raspberries like these should be pruned as follows: 1) Working any time after November but before April, when new growth starts, prune all canes that bore fruit last year, since they won't fruit again. These will have grayish, peeling bark, and should be cut off as close to the ground as you can using a sharp, clean pair of pruning shears 2) Remove any canes that have grown into paths, 3) remove any spindly or short canes, 4) selectively take out (“thin”) some of the remaining canes so that there are 4-5 of the healthiest, tallest, and fattest canes left per 0.1 square meter (1 square foot), 5) if canes are very tall, cut off their tops so they are taller than your waist. Remove all pruned canes from your garden as they are a source of disease.

If you have everbearing raspberries, pruning is much simpler — some time between April and November, simply cut off *all* of the stalks from the previous year. As the canes grow back in the following spring and summer, thin them so that the remaining canes are about 15 cm (6 inches) apart.

Who is taking care of them?

These plants were planted many years ago by a group of Eagle Heights Gardeners and have been cared for largely by Jim, a veteran gardener. Jim is still pruning them each year, but additional care is being provided by an informal group of volunteers that is planting and caring for different kinds of fruit in several places around Eagle Heights gardens. The group includes people from around Madison who like fruit of all kinds and want to learn more about it. New people are always welcome! To get involved, e-mail the group at: ehcg.fruit@gmail.com

Why were they planted, and who will get the fruit?

Many people — even gardeners who grow their own vegetables — are unfamiliar with growing fruit and may think that they cannot do so themselves. These plants are being maintained here to show you that ordinary people can indeed grow fruit, and this sign is intended to tell you a little about how it was done. If you want to plant some in your own plot, please go ahead!

Because the Garden Committee felt that these plants would serve an educational purpose, the plants and the supplies used to take care of them are being purchased with money from gardeners' plot fees. As a result, the fruit belongs to all gardeners. We do ask that you:

- a) not harvest any fruit before it's ripe (these raspberries are dark red when ripe)
- b) take only a small amount of fruit (a few berries) so that others may enjoy the same experience
- c) be careful with the plants if you touch them
- d) think about joining the fruit group to help take care of the plants! (see above)