Raspberry and Blackberry Production and Marketing

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Background / Overview

- Characteristics
- Varieties
- Market Trends
- Management
  - establishment
  - trellising / pruning
- Harvest and packing
- Post Harvest
Raspberry VS Blackberry

no receptacle  receptacle
Raspberry and Blackberry Varieties

**Raspberries**

'Primocane fruiting’ produces at tips on new primocanes - manage to harvest only primocane fruit or prune for early second season pick.

Examples: Autumn Bliss, Summit, Autumn Byrd, Caroline, Heritage?

**Blackberries**

Varieties with low chill requirement
- Erect, semi-erect varieties
- Thorny or thorn-free varieties

Examples: Navajo, Arapaho, Triple Crown, Apache, Chester
## Blackberry Varieties Evaluated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thorny</strong></td>
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<td>Choctaw</td>
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<td><strong>Thornless</strong></td>
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<td>Arapaho</td>
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<td>Navajo</td>
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<td>Black Satin</td>
<td>Maryland (USDA)</td>
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<td>Triple Crown</td>
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<td>Apache</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>Illinois (USDA)</td>
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Blackberry Varieties

Determine varieties of blackberries to extend the traditional harvest season
- Ollalieberry y Boysenberry most common in California - May and June
  later Chester and Black Satin

Blackberries - no production in the establishment year.
Raspberries produce 4-5 months from planting
Potential Production varies 4 oz - ~ 1 lb per plant per week in the second year ~ 5 - 10 lb total.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
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**Blackberry Harvest Periods by Variety**
Well managed primocane fruiting raspberries will provide continuous harvest Apr/May to Nov/Dec
Fresh Raspberry Wholesale Prices (high)
Los Angeles Terminal Market - 2003

Month / Week

$ per Flat

Chile
CA
MX
OR
Golden
Market Trends

- Wholesale price typically $15 - $30 per flat (12/6) year around. These are HIGHS.

- Wholesale prices are representative prices from USDA Market News surveys - LA Terminal Market
to arrive at farm gate prices - 30% costs / charges to wholesale market variable

- Price can vary markedly on the same date - quality
Red spider mite (Tetranychus sp.)
- Pest mite

Phytoseiulus persimilis
- Predator mite
Cultural Practices - Establishment

- Raised beds, with mulch

- Light or heavy soils if adequate drainage pH 5.5 - 7; incorporate P, K and other needed nutrients (except N) in the bed at planting.

- Distance between row depends on equipment needs typically 6 - 10 ft.

- Distance between plants 40”-50” for blackberry and variable for raspberry 1 - 3 ft.

- Irrigation furrow, sprinkler or drip. Drip allows more careful control of water, timely harvest, dry foliage.

- Trellising system? Single lines with blackberry VS double lines with raspberry
cement posts at end / wood
camas elevadas con ‘mulch’ o cobertura de material orgánica
Plant development - blackberry

Blackberry plants do not fill in - can distinguish individual plants - 3 ft.
Plant development - Raspberry

Eventually forms a solid hedge from suckers
Cultural practices - Trellising

- manage vegetative growth
  - allow entry of light and improve air circulation
- manage disease
- easier harvest, thinning and pruning
- protect canes
Cultural Practices - pruning

Pruning enables:

- manage vegetative growth
  - structure for hanging fruit
  - field work
- control of fruit size and quality
- control and assist harvest
- eliminate damage and disease
Trellising and pruning - blackberry

blackberry:
  single rows of wires
  branches tied to wires
Blackberry

Flowers on secondary branches of older (2\textsuperscript{nd} yr) canes.
Primary canes

Primary lateral
tipping to encourage branching

1.5 ft.

5 ft.
Raspberries

Flowers on new primocanes as well as second year canes

Best to harvest only primocanes
Trellising and pruning - raspberries

* prune raspberries at ground level following harvest
* often can prune raspberries at 4-5 ft for extending the picking.
Pruning and trellising - raspberries

Raspberries form continuous rows with double wires
Primocane fruiting raspberry can be selectively pruned down cane by cane or mowed down to the soil surface following harvest.
Harvest

Handle fruit carefully and place in baskets no deeper than 2 inches.

Blackberry Harvest

Riper fruit is dull.

Less ripe fruit is shiny - can adjust maturity to post harvest needs.

At times the fruit turns red in storage and the quality declines.

variety?
immature harvest?
high temperatures?
condensation?

Raspberry Harvest

Fruit comes free from the receptacle.

Lighter color to more distant markets.
- no gain in sugars
- color darkens
Harvesting

- **Harvest at least 2 X per week**

- **For local market harvest shiny fruit for best flavor.**

- **For shipping use varieties like Triple Crown, Cheyenne, Choctaw, Kiowa.**

- **Shawnee, Triple Crown, have acceptable flavor only if harvested dull.**

- **Varieties such as Navaho y Arapaho have firm fruit even if harvested dull black.**
Forced air pre-cooling

Forced air removes field heat more quickly and extends shelf life
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