

How Raspberries Fit into the Mix at Edgewater Farm

Pooh Sprague

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Part of the marketing strategy for our farm is to provide our own small fruit for our retail stand, our few wholesale accounts and CSA membership for as much of the growing season as possible. We have 5.5 acres of strawberries, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of summer brambles, 4 acres of blueberries and 1.25 acres of fall raspberries. This enables us to keep our own small fruit in our product mix from approximately June fifth until frost/closing of the stand which occurs in our area around Oct 15th.

Summer Bearing Varieties: Nova (very hardy) and productive and Laruen (not as), a few Prelude. Yearly favorite seems to be variable in terms of quality due in part to early season temps and nutrition program. Bristol (meager plant maker) and Jewel (more vigorous, so more fruiting "surface.") Fall Bearing Varieties: Autumn Britten (wimpy but early), Jaclyn (dependable), Caroline (easy and good quality) and Heritage (older planting). We will be trialing fruiting fall bearers in a movable greenhouse fall of 2012.

We are not "focused" raspberry growers. We don't know how our yields compare. Much detail work is overlooked. Yet still seem to produce enough for our needs.

Trellising: Summer bearing raspberries on permanent t-trellising with polywire and $\frac{1}{2}$ " RAM drip tubing. Pruning done in August to September, with tipping occurring at that time as well, due to problems from snow load on leaves. 3-6 canes "bundled" with baling twine to trellising. Fall bearers trellised annually with a modified San Diego system with 6' x $\frac{1}{2}$ rebar. Fall bearing primocanes are mowed late fall or early spring.

Nutrition: Dairy manure and sulfate or muriate of potash for fall bearers directly on row in early early spring for fall bearers. Manure and vegetable based compost side dressing with row mulcher followed by potash broadcast in summer bearers.

Pest Controls: Devrinol/Princep or Devrinol /Sinbar applications early spring pre-cane emergence and after manuring. Occasional Poast application spot spray late season for annual grass and hand weeding of escaped broadleaves and hardwoods. Number 1, 2, and 3 insect pest problems are Japanese Beetles on fruit and sometimes high pressure on mid summer foliage. Occasionally yellow jackets in a dry year. Botrytis the main disease issue by far. Siting the patch adventitiously is far more efficacious than a spray program.

Harvesting: Summer harvest is done totally by crew. Fall harvest is crew plus PYO.