



Vegu-june-22-Want-Fresh-Raspberries-Grow-Them-Yourself.MP3

Gary Crawford: [00:00:00] Raspberries are a delicate berry, they have a pretty short shelf life and so sometimes you to get them at the store, some of them may already be soft and mushy. But if you want to assure yourself of always getting fresh, ripe, firm raspberries, you can try to grow your own in almost any part of the country. But a raspberry plant is.

Kayla Johnson: [00:00:16] A plant that is for the intermediate gardener.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:20] Someone who has the time and who likes to take care of plants. That's Kayla Johnson. She's with the Agriculture Department's Ag Marketing Service. We're out here at the department's Farmers Market in Washington. Kayla, you're showing people all about the ins and outs of growing raspberries and there are many of those. And there are many varieties of raspberry plants which have different care instructions and bear fruit at different times. She's been growing the Red Summer bearing types most of her advice pertains to those. So, let's say you want to try your hand at producing your own raspberries. First, you're going to need.

Kayla Johnson: [00:00:50] Really well drained soil.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:52] If you can do it, use raised beds she says for good drainage. And as far as needing sun or shade for the Red Summer bearing plants that Kayla's growing here...

Kayla Johnson: [00:01:01] They do well in areas where they do get some shade. So, if you have somewhere in your yard where, you know, the middle of the day gets sun but towards the evening you're getting a nice, shady, cool area and that's a perfect place to plant them.

Gary Crawford: [00:01:14] Now the best time to have planted would have been back early spring right after the first frost but you can plant even now. You can plant from seeds but...

Kayla Johnson: [00:01:22] It might be easier if you're beginning gardener to buy a small seedling from your nursery and plant it. It's unlikely that you'll get berries the first year. You can also buy large plants. With those you can get berries. That same year.

Gary Crawford: [00:01:37] And once you've planted and established your plant you don't have to replant every year. In fact, if you have one stem, or cane as they call it, this year it will produce 10 or 12 more next year. In the winter, the canes die back. You'll need to prune those down, but those roots are still functioning. Once you've planted, Kayla says proper watering very important...

Kayla Johnson: [00:01:55] Consistent watering. Personally, I water every day. And if you see that your leaves are starting to look kind of yellow then it is probably getting too much water.

Gary Crawford: [00:02:05] Now you'll need to check the plant as it develops to see if any of the stems or canes or branches are not producing buds. If you find one like that...

Kayla Johnson: [00:02:13] You want to cut those branches off because that's taking away energy from the plant to produce fruit.

Gary Crawford: [00:02:19] Now eventually those plants will need some kind of trellis or support because they become top heavy with fruit, hopefully. Now once that fruit starts to form and from then on till the end of the season Kayla says you may have to compete for those berries with...

Kayla Johnson: [00:02:35] Birds love berries on any kind of plant. So, by covering your raspberry

plant in a loose netting or like a cheese cloth, this will prevent the birds from getting in and eating the berries.

Gary Crawford: [00:02:47] Now for more detailed advice about growing your own raspberries, talk with people at your local nursery. Contact also your local extension office, they can connect you with the experts who can help you. Gary Crawford for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.