

Fall-Bearing Raspberries

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Meet the Farmers



Ron's Berry Farm

Ron Dickie
Eyota, MN

"Farming is hard work. I've been at it 40 years! I enjoy the outdoors, working with the plants and seeing their performance. I've seen a lot of people come and go. Farming isn't just a hobby, it is really a way of life."

"We grow both summer and fall raspberries. They are good complements of each other. Sometimes fall raspberries get caught by the frost and we are done in September. Sometimes we can harvest into mid to late October. It's just a testament to how dependent farming is on the weather!"

"People are used to raspberries in the store and it's not a treat anymore. But local, Minnesota Grown is the best. There are no preservatives. We pick them and sell them same day! It's fresh, from just up the road."



Minnesotans are great at making the most of the short produce season we are offered in this state. We pour into the farmers markets in droves and purchase bags and baskets of brightly colored vegetables, local honey, freshly baked breads and cheese from dairy producers that live just miles down the road. There are, of

course, those certain fruits and vegetables that we crave even more than the rest. They are the celebrities of the summer produce season, and August ushers more than one of them! There is no denying that sweet corn is a crop our mouth is watering for by the time the frost thaws in the spring. The taste of a ripe, juicy tomato on your lips is worth talking about too! And then there are berries. Plump, fresh Minnesota Grown strawberries, blueberries and raspberries ripen in mid-June and July and their seasons are short, even compared to most produce grown across the state! Berries are picked, eaten, preserved and the berry patches are closed within a matter of weeks – already we want more!

But... wait... if the raspberry season is so short, then why are there still raspberries available at the farmers market this month? We owe it all to fall-bearing raspberry varieties! Minnesota Grown producers of fall-bearing raspberries are able to produce the berry favorite until frost in the fall. Some producers are able to extend their season even further with the use of high tunnel systems to keep the growing temperature consistent for their plants. This means more fruit for us!

Summer-bearing vs. Fall-bearing

Raspberries grow well in the wild and in gardens and berry patches throughout the state. Both summer-bearing and fall-bearing varieties are available, and they both produce the high quality fruit that we know and love. So what's really the difference? It all has to do with the way they produce.

Summer-bearing raspberries produce vegetative growth called "canes" each year. These new canes form in the summer, go dormant in the winter and produce raspberries the following summer. Then they die back.



These varieties produce fruit early in the season and give us a jump start on raspberries. They bear fruit for about a month.

Fall-bearing raspberries produce new canes, called “primocanes” in the summer and fruit on them in the fall of the same year. These canes can also produce fruit the following summer.

These varieties don’t begin producing fruit until mid-summer but continue fruiting until the frost. In mild climates or warm falls, they have even been known to produce into December!

Which to choose?

When producers are choosing which varieties to plant, a lot comes into play. The choice depends on their raspberry needs. If they want berries, early on, then summer-bearing may be the right choice. If they want more fruit, and don’t mind all the harvesting, then fall-bearing may be the best fit.

The good news for us? Minnesota Grown producers are harvesting both varieties throughout the summer! For those of us that love all things raspberry and are excited about producing raspberry jams, tarts, pies, cakes and treats all summer, this is the perfect combination. Minnesota Grown producers plant summer-bearing and fall-bearing varieties to ensure a long, large harvest and an abundance of fruit for all of us!

To learn more about raspberries and their health benefits, [read the article](#) on raspberries and blueberries in the [July issue](#) of the Minnesota Grown Pick of the Month. Keep your eye out for raspberries from your local producer or farmers market throughout August, September and even October (if the weather stays mild)!



A hearty “Thank you!” to Minnesota Grown member and producer Ron Dickie from Ron’s Berry Farm in Eyota for speaking with us about summer and fall-bearing berries.

Find your local producer today by searching our [online Directory!](#)

www.MinnesotaGrown.com