

Site Selection and Preparation

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Cultural Factors Affecting Bramble Yields

- **Site**
- **Cultivar selection**
- **In-row Spacing**
- **Row spacing**
- **Soil management**
- **Cover crops**
- **Irrigation**
- **Training & pruning systems**
- **Insect control**
- **Disease control**
- **Weed control**
- **Mineral nutrition**
- **Harvest methods**

Brambles Yield Components

- **Fruit Number**
 - # canes / lineal ft. of row
 - spacing between rows
 - # fruiting laterals / cane
 - # blossoms / lateral
 - % flowers producing marketable fruit
 - # of over-ripe fruit
 - # fruit harvested & sold
- **Fruit Size or Weight**
 - # drupelets
 - size of drupelets
 - Pollination
 - Fertility (primarily Nitrogen)
 - Plant Health or Healthy Foliage
 - Proper light exposure to fruits & foliage
 - Water

2 Year Life Cycle of Canes

- **Primocanes**

- Develop from shoots from basal buds of canes (root or crown buds) in spring
- Develop fruit buds in the fall

- **Floricanes**

- Buds go dormant over the winter
- Require chilling
 - Temperatures between 25 and 40 degrees
- Bloom in the spring
- Mature fruit in June and July
- Die after harvest

“Summer” vs. Fall or Ever-bearing Varieties

- Red and Yellow Raspberries come in 2 types:
 - Summer Bearing
 - Fall Bearing
 - Ever-bearing
 - Primocane Fruiting
- Many producers prefer:
 - Primocane Fruiting
 - Mow off canes in the late winter
 - Do not have to hand remove dead Floricanes
 - Less disease pressure

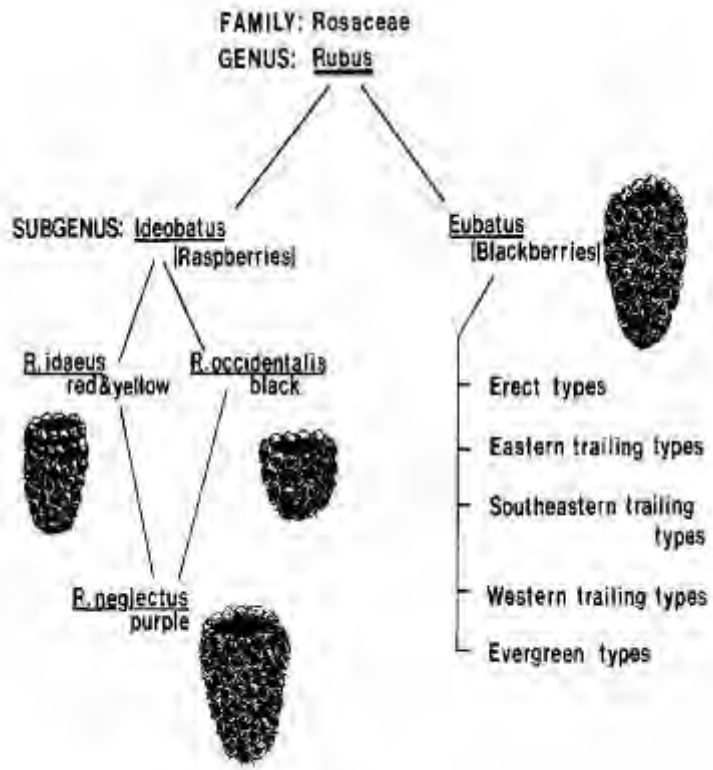
Site Selection for Brambles

- **Soils:**
 - **Fertile**
 - **Deep**
 - **Well-drained**
 - **Prevent Phytophthora**
 - **Consider building raised beds for poorly drained soils**
- **Elevation and Slope:**
 - **Air drainage**
 - **Passive Disease Control**
 - **Passive Frost Protection**
 - **Toward the top of a gentle slope avoids frost pockets.**
- **Aspect:**
 - **North facing slope delays maturity.**
 - **East facing slope dries faster .**

Bedding Equipment



Raspberries & Blackberries *Belong to the Rose Family*



- Other members of the *Rosaceae* family include:
 - apples
 - pears
 - strawberries
 - & many other plants with blossoms having 5 petals

Site Selection for Brambles (cont.)

- **Crop Rotation**
 - Because of the potential of **Verticillium Wilt**:
 - Avoid sites used for **strawberry, pepper, tomato, potato or eggplant** during the past 4 to 5 years



Preplant Site Preparation

- **Start 1 to 2 years in advance of planting**
 - **Eliminate noxious weeds**
 - **Eliminate wild brambles for ½ mile (as far as possible)**
- **Soil Test**
 - **Detailed test (pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, micros)**
 - **0 to 6 in. depth**
 - **Or, if bedding as deep as the beds are high**
- **Adjust pH to 6.0 to 6.5 (6.2)**
- **Incorporate organic matter (>3% is desirable)**
- **Subsoil, especially in heavier clay soils**

Suggested Plant Spacings

- **Traditionally:**

- **Red Raspberries**

- 2 to 3 ft. in-row
- 6 to 10 ft. between rows

- **Black Raspberries:**

- 3 to 4 ft. in-row
- 8 to 10 ft. between rows

- **Purple Raspberries:**

- 3 to 5 ft. in-row
- 10 to 12. ft between rows

- **Recent Recommendations:**

- **Raspberry**

- 2 to 3 ft. in-row
 - 2.5 ft. or 30 in.
- 10 to 12 ft. between rows

- **Erect blackberry:**

- 2 to 3 ft. X 10 to 12 ft.

- **Semi-erect blackberry:**

- 6 to 8 ft. X 10 to 12 ft.

Irrigation

- Trickle
 - Types of systems
 - Heavy Wall Dripper Line
 - Thin Wall Drip Tape
 - Thin Wall Polyethylene with emitters
- Trickle Irrigation
 - Level to Slight Slope ideal
 - If steep, then consider contouring

A Typical "Drip" System

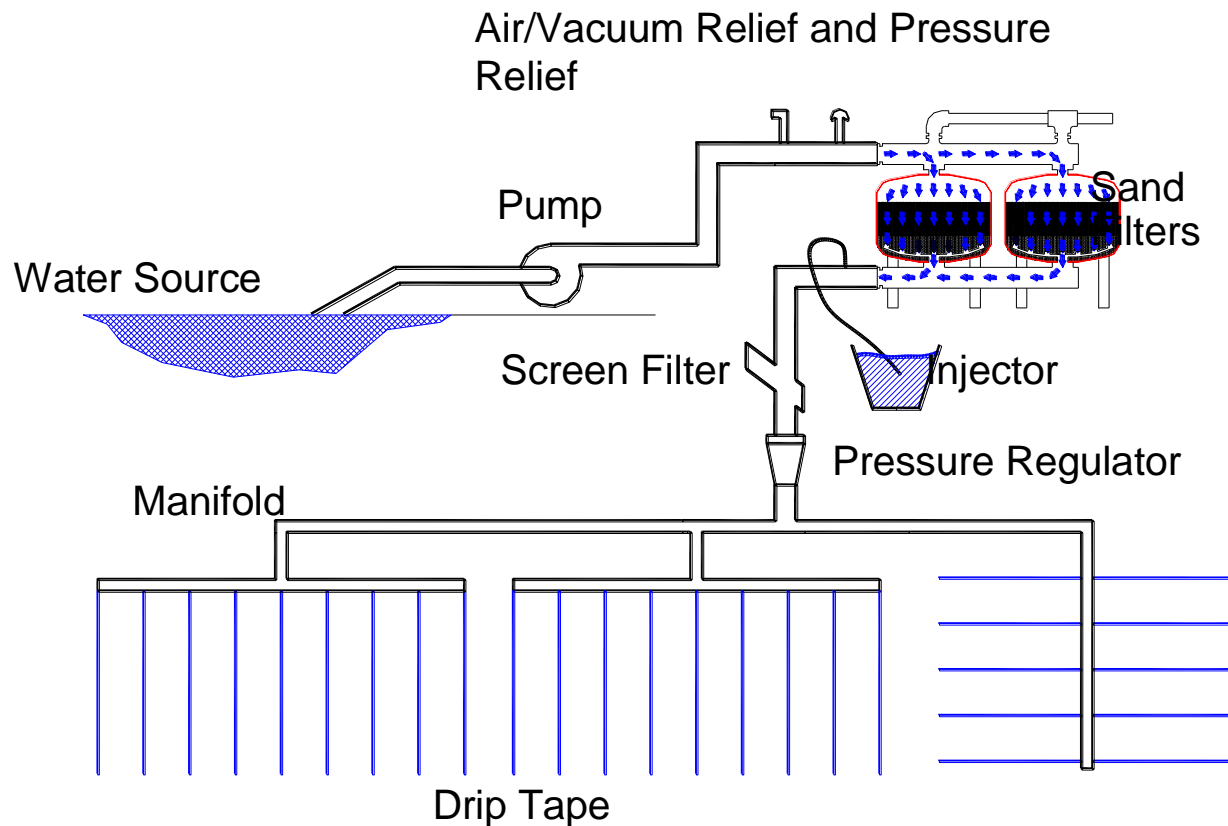


Figure 5. Typical Layout for Trickle Irrigation using Media Filters

Keys to Bramble Production in Warmer Climates

- Proper Site Selection
- Proper Site Preparation
- Proper Variety Selection
- Drip Irrigation
- Weed Control, especially during establishment years.
- Shade at Harvest

Questions ?

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