Crimson Giant Raspberry







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Rubus idaeus 'Crimson Giant'

- <u>Use:</u> An introduction from Cornell University, the primocane Crimson Giant Raspberry is a great choice for extending the raspberry harvesting season well into fall. It produces an abundant crop of giant, exceptionally sugar-sweet bright red berries beginning in late summer often continuing to first frost, which for raspberries is later than ever before. The fruits are firm and very easy to pick, easily releasing from the plant, and they have a long shelf life. The berries are excellent for fresh eating, in fruit and other salads, for sauces, muffins and breads, and smoothies, ice cream, popsicles and other deserts. If you're looking for edible plants that are easy to grow and take up little space, definitely consider raspberries. They are self-fertile plants that will produce fruit even if only one plant is grown.
- <u>Exposure/Soil</u>: This cultivar prefers mostly sun (a little afternoon shade)and well-drained, moderately fertile soil. We recommend a soil pH level of 6.5 - 6.8 for raspberry plants so amend red clay with lime and organic compost.
- **Growth:** Rapid growth to 4-6' tall and wide. Upright and vigorous growth.
- Hardiness: Zone 4a-8b (protect from afternoon heat in zone 8); Perennial -Vine
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; In spring and summer, the leaves are shiny dark green above and gray -green below, turning to burgundy in fall and winter.
- **Flowers:** Enormous, beautiful red raspberries later into the season than you ever thought possible. It matures late September to October, and with tunnel protection/frost cloth, you could be picking into November! Easy to pick fruit has exceptional sugar-sweet flavor, and good shelf-life. Self-pollinating.
- <u>Pruning:</u> Crimson Series are fall-bearing raspberries and are much easier to manage than summer-bearers. Fall raspberries produce a large fall crop on this year's new canes (called Primocanes). Fall-bearers are generally cut down entirely within 1 to 2 inches of the ground during the dormant season (late winter). This method of pruning allows for one large crop in the fall.

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