

Propagation of Red Raspberries

Patricia N. Miller

Sakuma Bros. Farms, Inc., Burlington, Washington

Adventitious shoots are produced on the roots of red raspberries (*rubus idaeus*) during the growing season. They are especially abundant on 1- to 2-year-old plants. These shoots elongate, push up through the soil and then root. After the plants are dormant the new bare root plants can be dug and transplanted or can be held in cold storage for several months prior to planting.

Root cuttings can also be used to propagate new red raspberry plants if care is taken to prevent drying of the roots before planting. One can purchase dormant roots from certified berry growers to use as a source of root cuttings. Root cuttings from potted plants are often used by researchers to increase the number of greenhouse grown plants.

When it is desirable to produce plants free of soil and in a vector-proof environment, micropropagation can be used to propagate red raspberries. Plants produced *in vitro* are more expensive and are not available in large numbers unless ordered a year or more in advance. In addition, since these plants are initially more difficult to establish, this method is usually advantageous only when there are problems with other methods. Rapidly growing, tissue-culture-produced red raspberries should not be planted until temperatures are warm. However, tissue culture liners that have matured in the nursery can be handled much like bare root plants when they are available.