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Jewel Black Raspberry

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The black raspberry is a native American fruit found growing in the wild from New England to the Carolinas. Plants are most frequently found in clearings or around the borders of fields. Early observers collected plants from the wild for planting into gardens where they respond very well to cultivation and freedom from competition. Many early American nurseries offered black raspberries for sale but did not list any varietal names. The first named variety seems to be the 'Ohio Everbearing' which was found by Nicholas Longworth of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1832 and offered for sale. This variety was more or less a novelty because it produced a fall crop. The summer crop was light, berries were small, and poor in quality.

H. H. Doolittle of Oaks Corners, New York improved upon nature's method of propagation by tip-layering and consequently is considered the man most responsible for increasing black raspberries on a large scale for commercial production. By 1880, western New York was considered a source for dried black caps, and, at this time, several thousand acres were under production. Since 1880, a number of selections from growers were introduced as varieties and grown on a limited scale. Several experiment stations have contributed greatly to the development of superior black raspberry varieties. The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station has released six varieties since 1927, four of which are being grown today.



Figure 1.—Fruiting lateral from the black raspberry 'Jewel.'

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The black raspberry breeding program at Geneva has been aimed at developing superior varieties which are productive, vigorous, large fruited, and widely adapted. 'Jewel' (Figs. 1, 2) originated in 1954 from a

cross between New York 29773 (Bristol x Dundee) x Dundee (Fig. 3). It was selected in 1957 from a population of 104 seedlings and tested as New York 628.



Figure 2.—Fruiting row of 'Jewel.'

DESCRIPTION OF JEWEL

Plant—vigorous, erect, hardy, consistently productive, propagated by tip layers, slightly susceptible to mildew, no infections of anthracnose have been observed to date, winter injury has not limited production since selection.

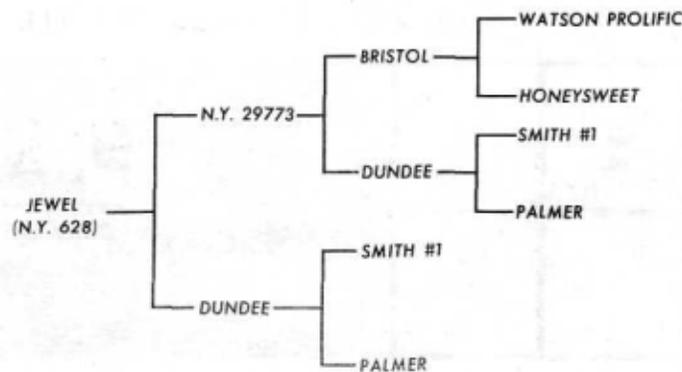


Figure 3.—Pedigree of the black raspberry 'Jewel.'

Fruit—ripens in mid-season, large, skin black, glossy, slightly woolly, coherent, good quality, and firm". Fruit forms a fairly tight cluster at the tip of laterals (Fig. 1), exhibits concentrated ripening, most of the crop can be picked in two to three pickings.

The consistent good performance of 'Jewel' merits its release for commercial planting or home gardens.