

TulaMagic®

Robust Summer-Raspberry with high yields, 10 days earlier than Tulameen



Tulameen in front, TulaMagic® behind

Date of plantation: 02.06.08, Date of the picture: 30.09.08. Both varieties: Greenplants in Jiffy-7.

Cultivating experiences in 2008 and previous years

Peculiarities of the Raspberry Year 2008

The mild temperatures in the second half of winter 2008 caused our fruit trees and berry bushes to produce early buds and shoots. By mid March, the early raspberry varieties Malahat and Marla which are cultivated outdoors (for processing purposes!), as well as most of the raspberry selections being tested, had grown new shoots of between 1 and 3 cm. A new cold spell accompanied by snowfall put an abrupt stop to the early progress of the vegetation. On Easter Monday, temperatures as low as -8°C were recorded in our early-budding raspberry cultivation. These frosty temperatures obviously had a great impact on the cultivations. A large part of the early sprouting shoots died off. Finally, only late budding canes flowered and developed fruit-bearing side-shoots. Due to the fact that the plants were left with quite a large number of shoots, the yield turned out to be quite satisfactory despite frost damage.

TulaMagic Observations

Fruit properties:

TulaMagic also suffered substantially from frost damage. The ripening of the fruits started simultaneously with Malahat and Marla in mid June. Once more, TulaMagic impressed with very large, shining, light red berries (weight per berry in 2008: 6-7g). Due to a generally low dose of nitrate fertiliser, the firmness of the fruit turned out to be very good. Regarding firmness, TulaMagic does not differ in any way from our main variety Malahat which produces berries with a weight of 4-5 g each. As in previous years, TulaMagic convinced through its intense and sweet flavour. Even the berries picked for storage testing before proper ripening had occurred (which is against our policy), already had an agreeable taste. Although we abstained from providing any winter protection, the storage quality of the berries which were picked after ripening proved to be good. Thus it was possible to sell at the weekend packaged berries which had already been picked at the beginning of the week and were stored in cool conditions at a temperature of 4°C.

Robustness:

As far as the health of the eight year old testing cultivation is concerned, TulaMagic strikes as being especially robust. Although the death of roots due to Phytophthora has affected some varieties and testing plants, so far TulaMagic has not shown any sign of the illness. Tulamagic has a good root growth and still develops quite a large number of young canes despite its "advanced age". The health of the new shoots and buds is still as good as in previous years. In our testing station we consciously refrain from applying any treatment against illnesses affecting the canes.

Cultivation suitability

As we specialize in early cultivation with reduced cultivating efforts, we consider the early ripening and the high quality of the fruit to be of great value. Because of its early ripening and the good quality of fruit which is greatly appreciated by consumers, TulaMagic surpasses the still cultivated early bearing variety Resa especially because of its fruit properties, robustness and the easy care it requires. In mild growing areas and with proper winter protection, Tulamagic, similar to the variety "Resa", will produce an additional crop in the autumn due to its low new growth tendency. So far such late crops have been largely prevented at our testing station because at the end of May we cut back all new growth to ground level in order to facilitate harvesting mechanically or manually. A testing cultivation of Tulamagic which was planted in 2008 in a medium heavy soil, without growth-enhancing aids (raised-bed-cultivation, usage of plastic foils), proved to be thriving better than the comparison cultivation of Tulameen. These observations indicate that Tulamagic roots well even in difficult conditions.