

From The Bedford Extension Master Gardener HELP DESK

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WHEN WILL MY BLACKBERRIES RIPEN?

QUESTION

A client had to cut down blackberry canes on short notice before the fruit had ripened. She put canes into buckets of water and wanted to know whether the berries would ripen.

DIAGNOSIS / RECOMMENDATION

The response was that once the cane has been cut from the plant, blackberries that are not ripe are not likely to ripen, even if still on the cane.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

While some fruits will ripen after harvest, information from NCSU [1] identifies that blackberries cannot be picked half-ripe “as they have no carbohydrate resources within the fruit and depend on direct import of sugars from the plant.” That is confirmed by other sources [2], [3], [4]. Since the canes had no roots and no means to continue normal metabolism and transport of appropriate sugars, berries still on the canes but in just water are unlikely to ripen. If berries are slightly under-ripe, they may soften but will not get any sweeter. Blackberries and other brambles should be picked when ripe.



Blackberries gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

RESOURCE LINKS

- [1] <https://rubus.ces.ncsu.edu/rubus-postharvest-handling-and-storage-of-blackberries-and-raspberries/>
- [2] <http://pickyourown.org/blackberries.htm>
- [3] <https://extension.umd.edu/growit/fruit-profiles/raspberries-and-blackberries>
- [4] <http://galveston.agrilife.org/files/2012/03/Fruit-Nut-Production-Blackberries.pdf>

All resource links accessed July 13, 2016

Answers provided herein were based on specific situations and growing conditions.

These recommendations may or may not be appropriate for all circumstances.

For specific recommendations for your particular situation please contact your local Cooperative Extension Office.

MASTER GARDENER HELP DESK

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