

## BRAMBLES

RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, & TISSUE CULTURE PLANTS

### Pruning

#### Summer-Bearing Raspberries

These varieties carry one crop of berries on the over-wintering canes during the summer months. For best yields, prune out the canes that carried fruit directly after harvest. Thin remaining new growth to 6-8 strong, healthy canes per running foot of row.

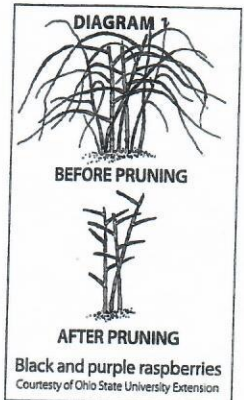
#### Fall-Bearing (primocane-bearing, Everbearing)

These varieties can produce two crops. The largest is borne in the late summer and fall on the tips of canes that grew throughout the summer. A second crop is carried lower on those same canes early the next summer. To have two crops, the planting must be pruned as a summer bearer.

Most ever-bearers will produce the best crop if not allowed to fruit in early summer. To treat these plants as fall-bearers, mow off all the canes after the canes have lost their leaves in very late fall, or wait until early spring in colder areas. Be sure to cut the canes as closely as possible to the soil surface, leaving as little stub as possible above the ground. The new, strong canes that grow that summer will bear an abundant fall crop.

#### Black Raspberries and Purple Raspberries

Black raspberries and purple raspberries break buds from their crown region in the hill and send out few, if any, suckers. Prune plants to 4-6 canes per hill. Both of these types of raspberry plants respond well to a process called tipping, whereby the 1-year old canes are pinched back as they reach a height of 5'-6' in July or August. This practice encourages fruiting lateral branches to break from the main cane and keeps plant height in check. Laterals, in turn, can also be headed back in the late Fall to 10"-15". Pinching back laterals can help increase berry size and increase winter hardiness.



#### Blackberries (Thornless & Semi-erect)

Some type of trellis support is recommended (see diagram 2). A 3-wire or 4-wire trellis works best for this type of plant. Tip 1st year canes when they reach 5' high in midsummer. Canes that fruited can be removed anytime after they have been harvested. Thin the remaining canes to 6-8 canes per running yard of row. If grown in a hedgerow, thin canes to 6-8 canes per hill. Laterals should be cut back to 12" in late November.

Sometimes thornless blackberries are managed by tying them to a stake. In the staked-hill system, the canes are wrapped around a stake 2" in diameter, tied in 2 to 3 places, and cut off to the height of the stake at 5'-6' above ground level. The plants are set 5'-8' apart in every direction and restricted to a clump. This is an easy to maintain system and can be an attractive addition to the home garden landscape. A trellis or staking is highly recommended for the semi-erect, trailing blackberries in order to keep the fruit clean and minimize canes breaking.

