

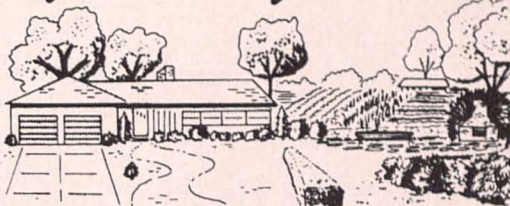
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Yard 'n' Garden

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PRUNING RASPBERRIES

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To be sure of a good crop of raspberries next year, prune your planting after you've finished harvesting this year's crop.

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But if you're to do a good job of pruning, you should understand the growth habits of the raspberry. The raspberry is a perennial and lives for years without replanting. However, only the underground parts are perennial. The canes above ground are biennial. They come up one year and produce vegetative growth in the form of new green canes. These overwinter and the second year lateral branches develop on them. Fruit develops on these laterals, and after fruiting the canes die.

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Pruning consists of cutting out all the canes that have produced fruit on lateral branches. If you have grown your raspberries in a narrow row or in hills, this pruning shouldn't be difficult. But if you have allowed your canes to form a thicket, the pruning job will be harder.

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After removing the old canes, the next job is thinning out the new ones. If you follow the hedgerow system, thin out the plants to about 3 to 4 per foot of row. If you grow the canes in hills, thin out the hills to about 6 to 9 strong unbranched canes per hill. Always leave the sturdiest canes.

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