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*Yard 'n' Garden*



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PRUNING RASPBERRIES

In many backyard gardens we often observe the typical raspberry "patch" where the plants have been allowed to grow into a dense tangle of old and new canes. Not only are the berries difficult to pick from such patches, but they are generally small, crumbly and of poor quality. For best quality raspberries, the planting must be pruned properly.

\* \* \* \*

When harvest is completed in August, it's time to prune raspberries. First, remove the old canes that have borne fruit. The next step is to thin out some of the new canes that have come up since spring. Usually there are many more than necessary for good fruit production. The number to be left depends on the training system you wish to follow.

\* \* \* \*

If you use the hedgerow system, thin out the canes so you have 3 or 4 per foot of row. If you grow the plants in hills, thin out the canes, leaving only 6 to 9 strong, unbranched, tall canes.

\* \* \* \*

Cutting back the canes to the desirable height can be delayed until next spring when growth starts. Usually the height can be as high as the type of support. In hedgerows where a support is used, the canes are usually cut to a height of 3½ feet.

\* \* \* \*

In everbearing varieties like Durham and September, a fall crop of fruit could develop on the new canes. Cut out the old fruiting canes now but delay thinning down the new canes until early next spring.

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