

CANEBERRY CARE

Farmington Gardens

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PRUNING RIGID & TRAILING BLACKBERRIES & RASPBERRIES

Last year's growth is blooming & bearing fruit as new shoots emerge from the crown. Remove all but 5 of these new shoots and let them continue to grow on the ground.



After harvest, cut all bearing canes to the ground and tie 5 new canes to the wire.

Head back the new canes a few inches above the wire to encourage lateral growth along the wire.



After the fall harvest of berries on these new canes, cut back the portion that fruited.



In the winter, cut the laterals back to 18". They will bear during the coming summer and continue the cycle.



Caneberries include raspberries, blackberries, and all of their varieties. Following is some general care advice to help you get your plants up and running.

PLANTING - Planting of caneberries is usually best accomplished in early Spring or late Winter, while the weather is still cool. Choose a site that receives plenty of sun, and where the soil drains well. Caneberries tend to be rangy if untended, so they are almost always planted against a trellis or other support, which you can build or buy easily.

WATER - Caneberries will need water the first year or two in order to get established, but remember that caneberries are very susceptible to root-rot, so keep this in mind when watering, especially in heavier soils. Once established, it's actually better to water less than more.

FERTILIZER - It is best to fertilize caneberries around bloom time in this area. Feed with a fertilizer higher in Phosphorous and Potassium than Nitrogen, such as a 5-10-10, as this will encourage strong roots, stems, and bloom/fruiting. Often times manure or another organic material is also used because it loosens the soil and the low rate of nutrient won't burn the plants.

PRUNING - Pruning of caneberries is crucial to successful fruiting. The diagrams to the left show the correct way to prune your caneberries for maximum fruiting. Canes are really only good for one fruiting season. The first year is just growth, the second year it will fruit, and after the cane fruits, cut it out to make room for new canes to grow. "Everbearing" types are those that bear fruit twice, once in Spring, and then in Fall. The cane will fruit on the top 1/3 of the cane the first Fall, and then on the lower 2/3 the following Spring, so you can prune accordingly.