



## STEPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE RASPBERRY AND BLACKBERRY PATCH

### First Year:

- ❑ Plant raspberries and blackberries in full sun in an area that offers some protection from winter winds.
- ❑ Prepare the soil carefully and plant the berries 2 feet apart. If you set out bare-rooted plants, cut the tops back to 2 inches above the ground after planting, but leave potted ones unpruned.
- ❑ Water both potted and bare-rooted plants thoroughly with a liquid fertilizer solution or root starter, and mulch.

### Second Year:

- ❑ *Spring.* Cut back all plants that didn't make a strong showing the previous year to 2 inches above ground level. This encourages maximum cane growth for a big crop the following year. Add mulch and apply a light helping of plant food.
- ❑ *Fall.* Cut tops of plants back so canes are about 4 feet tall. This makes a stiff plant that doesn't fall over in winter's snow and wind. Install a fence or other support.

### Third Year and Each Year Thereafter:

- ❑ *Spring.* Add fertilizer and fresh mulch. "Trim out broken canes. Spray with a fungicide if you spot any evidence of spur blight or anthracnose.
- ❑ *Early summer.* Spray once more with a fungicide if any disease appears. Mow or pull out tips of sucker plants that are growing in the wrong places. Cut off and burn wilted tops as soon as they appear. Remove any sick looking plants.
- ❑ *Late summer.* Cut to ground level and remove all the canes that bore fruit. Cut out all weak canes, and thin remaining canes to 6 inches apart.
- ❑ *Late fall.* Cut back canes to 4 or 5 feet in height for winter. Tighten wire supports, and repair fence or trellis, if necessary.

### To Get the biggest Fall Crop from Everbearers:

If you are growing two-crop raspberries (everbearers) and want only a large fall crop, follow all of the procedures above except, under "Third Year and Each Year Thereafter," add the following.

- ❑ *Spring.* Cut **all** canes off to ground level. (This means there will be no summer crop, but the fall crop will be larger and will ripen earlier. It won't be necessary to prune off the canes in late summer, because there won't be any.)

### Points of further interest:

- ❑ The crown and roots of the brambles (raspberries & blackberries) are described as perennials because, basically, they live for several years. The above-ground parts are biennial, living just two years.
- ❑ Applying fertilizer during the growing season is not recommended because it may result in soft berries or stimulate late-summer growth that may not harden properly. Apply fertilizer in mid to late April. We recommend, Espoma's Garden Manure, Garden Tone or Tree Tone.
- ❑ Raspberries and Blackberries require 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. When watering soak the soil thoroughly, so that the moisture can penetrate into the first 24 inches of soil.
- ❑ If you neglect cutting out the old canes in your bramble patch each year, the planting will deteriorate rapidly. Each cane sprouts and grows to its full height in one year, bears fruit the following year, then dies immediately. Neglected raspberries and blackberries become a jungle of dead canes after a few years, and both fruit size and quantity will suffer. You can recognize dead canes by their pallid color and brittle appearance.
- ❑ Keep rows of red and yellow raspberries and upright blackberries no more than 2 feet in width, and those of black or purple raspberries and trailing blackberries on more than a foot and a half wide. This permits easier harvesting and pruning and also allows better air circulation, which reduces the chances of spur blight and other diseases.