

# How to Grow

# Berries

*Capital Nursery*



## WHY GROW BERRIES?

Flavor and price. The limited availability and high prices of store bought fruit give home grown berries the highest 'dollar per sq. ft. of garden' of any crop you can plant. The plants are inexpensive, last for years, are easy to maintain and the fresh picked flavor is impossible to find in stores.

**SELECTING VARIETIES** Almost any type of berry can be grown in our area although there are specific varieties that are better. The varieties we have available have proven themselves to be superior for local planting. Try to purchase roots or vines that are second year transplants. This saves you half of the time from planting to picking.

**POTENTIAL PRODUCTION** The Department of Agriculture gives the following estimates of fruit production from a dozen established plants. Blackberry, youngberry, boysenberry and loganberry - 9 to 15 Qts. This information is offered to help you select the correct number of plants for your family and is not a guarantee of production.

**WHERE TO PLANT** The right location in your yard will insure the success of your crop. Blueberries, huckleberries and black raspberries need afternoon shade. Red raspberries and gooseberries are best with protection from extreme heat (keep roots cool) . All other varieties should be in as much sun as possible. Berry plants can fit easily into the home landscaping. Compact bush varieties like currant, gooseberry and blueberry take no more room than an Azalea bush. vine types of berries can be grown against a wall or fence or planted in rows and trained on wires strung between posts.

**PREPARING SOIL** Berry plants will remain in the same location for many years so soil conditioning before planting is critical to success. Mix 20% to 30% organic material with the soil in the planting area. Fir bark mulch or redwood compost last the longest and contain no weed seeds or diseases.

**WATERING** During the early months of growth and fruit formation, the soil should be kept moist but not soggy. After harvest, reduce watering to deep but infrequent soakings. Remove furrows and watering basins during the winter to prevent standing water that could rot the plants.

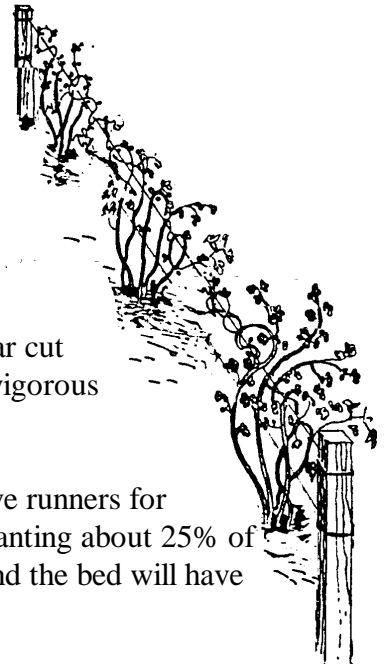
**FERTILIZING** unlike other fruit producing plants, berries require primarily nitrogen to produce good crops. Use a slow slow release fertilizer like Master Nursery Mastergreen or Formula 49. Feed just as growth starts in spring. Repeat in May and again after harvest. Apply the fertilizer at least 12 inches away from the plants and lightly work into the soil. Follow with deep watering.

## PRUNING

**CANE BERRIES** - Fruit is produced on canes that grew the previous year. At the end of the harvest season, cut the canes that had fruit this year back to the soil level. Train the canes that grew this year back on the wires. Mark these canes with a spot of latex paint to make identification easier next year.

**BUSH BERRIES** (Blueberries, currants, gooseberries and huckleberries) Each year cut 1/3 of the oldest branches back to within 8 or 10 inches of the soil. This produces vigorous new growth from the base of the plants that will insure good fruit production.

**VINEBERRIES** (Strawberries) Remove runners for larger individual berries. Leave runners for greater number of medium sized berries. Replace plants every fourth year. Try replanting about 25% of the strawberry bed each year. This will keep the production going on every year and the bed will have continuing annual replenishment.



## INSECT PROBLEMS

**RASPBERRY HORNTAIL**; tips of new growth wilt and die.

Control - cut out infested cane below area of damage.

**CANE BORER**; tunnels running from cut ends of canes down into the crown area.

Control - after pruning, cover cut ends of canes with SEAL and HEAL.

**RED BERRY MITE**; parts of fruit fail to ripen, remain pale and hard.

Control - spray SULFUR when leaf buds are 3 inches long in spring or MASTER NURSERY YEAR ROUND PESTFIGHTER OIL

**MITES**; foliage shows pale speckles and silvery appearance.

Control - Use SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP or MASTER NURSERY YEAR ROUND PEST FIGHTER OIL

**APHIDS**; tiny green insects under leaves, sticky or sooty deposits on leaves.

Control - Spray MASTER NURSERY YEAR ROUND PESTFIGHTER OIL or SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP as needed for control. Both may be used up to the day of harvest.

**SLUGS, SNAILS, EARWIGS, SOWBUGS**; damaged fruit and foliage.

Control - use MASTER NURSERY SNAIL, SLUG and INSECT MEAL.

## DISEASE PROBLEMS

**LEAFSPOT**; small purple spots with pale centers on leaves and stems

Control - spray COOKE'S KOP-R-SPRAY in September, March and April.

**LEAF RUST**; orange powdery spots on underside of leaves.

Control - spray COOKE'S KOP-R-SPRAY in September, March and April.