

Pruning Brambles

Raspberries and Blackberries

(From Cornell Cooperative Extension Bulletin 156)

Coming to terms:

Primocanes—First-year canes.

Floricanes—Second-year canes.

Raspberries can be red, black or purple.

Some red raspberries are called “everbearing” because they produce berries in summer on second-year canes (floricanes) and again in fall on first-year canes (primocanes).

Blackberries can be thorny or thornless.

Suckers:

Blackberries and red raspberries produce many suckers and spread laterally.

Black raspberries and purple raspberries stay confined to the original planting.

Pruning:

Red raspberries. In mid-March prune off damaged tips and remove damaged canes, cutting below the winter injury. Thin out canes, leaving three or four canes per foot.

Black raspberries. Remove four inches from the tips of primocanes when they reach a height of 24 inches. Primocanes will have long laterals. Shorten the laterals in early spring. Thin canes leaving two or three per foot.

Purple raspberries. Thin, leaving three fruiting canes per foot of row. (Note: Pinching the tops of purple raspberry canes invites diseases.)

Thorny blackberries. Remove tips of primocanes when they reach a height of three to four feet. This will strengthen the canes and encourage lateral branching. In early spring, shorten the laterals to between 12 and 16 inches. Thin canes, leaving two per foot.

Some growers prefer to prune by mowing half of the planting right down to the ground, alternating halves each year. Mowing is done during the dormant season, no later than March.

Thornless blackberries. Trim canes to about three feet. Trim the laterals to about 18 inches. Maintain six to eight canes per hill.



GREENHOUSES & GARDEN CENTER

Where beauty comes naturally.

13 Archie St., Auburn NY 13021

Located off Rte 38A in Auburn (315) 253-3030 • dickmanfarms.com