

vigorous as possible. Hence the pinching back. After the first year, no trimming whatever should be made until the following winter or early spring. This has been against the almost general practice, but it is sound, not only when tested by experience, but in theory, also. We aim to prevent winter-killing, to have the plant complete its round of growth, the wood mature, and the leaves drop, because they are ripe, and not from frost. There are from four to eight canes, and these, without any branches of old growth, will fill the rows with their new shoots the next season. It is upon the new shoots alone that the fruit is formed, and the more vigorous these new shoot the greater the yield. One shoot, 20 or 30 inches long, will produce far more than 5 or 6, 4 inches long. Don't cut anything in the fall. Don't! Don't! Let the patch remain as near a wilderness as possible. In the winter or early spring cut out the old wood close to the ground, and then cut off the new canes as nearly 3 feet in height as possible. They will then be in the shape of straight sticks without a branch. But the roots are the matured product of an uninterrupted year's growth, and, as soon as spring opens, will develop the buds with great vigor. In no instance is the law of pruning more markedly shown than with the raspberry: summer pruning dwarfs both root and top; winter or spring pruning increases the growth of both. Late summer and fall cultivation and summer and fall pruning have cost the raspberry farmers thousands of dollars each year. The idea that the more work they do the greater the crop, has ruined thousands of acres every year. Two good crops is about the average number, while side by side, other farmers with less work get from five to eight crops. The unvarying rules for raspberry pruning are: 1. Pinch the terminal bud when less than 12 inches high the first year. 2. After the first year do not cut a cane, mature or immature, old or new, during the season of growth. Adherence to these rules will give a permanence to the plant, limited only by the ability to keep the ground free from weeds, and to supply the fertilizer necessary to sustain such an enormous vegetable growth.—JEFFERSON SHERMAN in Rural New Yorker.

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**The Importance of Thinning Crops.**—I am satisfied that but few farmers know the importance of thinning. They seem to think nothing needs thinning but corn. One bought some raspberries of me and said, "Come, look at my vines and tell me what is the matter with them; they are a good kind but won't bear." I looked and saw at once. I said "How many stalks have you in each hill?" He laughed and said about forty. I said "What is the use of carrying your brains around with you if you don't use them?" There were ten plants where there should be only one as a rule. One good, thrifty, well-formed blackberry or raspberry stalk is worth a dozen over-crowded, thriftless, limbless ones. I once planted a big potato whole to get big potatoes and got a big hill full of little potatoes. It would have been all the same if I had planted a big ear of corn whole in a hill and expected big corn. Potatoes should be thinned to one or two eyes before planting. Few farmers do it. To thin my crop as I ought has taken more nerve than anything I have undertaken on the farm.—W. L. ANDERSON, Montgomery Co., Ind.