

Cultivation.—Soil must be loose and free from weeds and grass. "Spare the cultivator and spoil the crop." The numerous raspberry suckers are themselves a serious weed.

Pruning.—Last year's canes bear the fruit. After the crop is gathered, cut out all the old canes and leave a similar number of young healthy canes for next year. In the established raspberry patch there should be about six canes to the hill, or one to every four inches in the continuous row. For western conditions this is about all the pruning that red raspberries require. Black-caps may be cut back in the spring to about 2½ feet. It is also well to pinch back the young shoots in early summer to encourage the growth of laterals.

Trellising and Staking.—Drive a good stake upright into each hill. Tie the bush around loosely with twine and string. For the continuous row, drive in posts and stretch a wire along the row, tying the canes to this wire with string or raffia. Two wires, eighteen inches apart, may be stretched one on each side of the bush and fastened on cross-pieces nailed on the posts. The wires should be just high enough to catch the canes at the point where branching begins. No tying is needed for this method. The wires and all the posts (except the end ones) are removed each fall.

Harvesting and Yield.—Pick fruit after it has coloured well but before it is ripe. Allow to ripen in a cool place in the trays. Picking on very hot days or when the fruit is wet spoils it for keeping or shipping. The yield varies very much according to conditions, but a very conservative estimate may be placed at 2,400 pounds or 75 bushels per acre. Red raspberries in the test rows at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, have been known to yield 10,234 pounds per acre.

Winter Protection.—It is safest to cover the canes with soil each fall. Dig out a forkful on one side of the root (preferably the north side) and push the bush over without breaking the canes. Lay the canes down parallel and throw soil on the tips to hold them down, then cover with three or four inches of soil. Two men should work together. This should be done when warm days occur in the fall, and before the canes freeze too hard. In the spring before warm weather sets in the canes can be lifted with a fork and straightened up previous to the first cultivation.

Insects and Diseases.—The commonest insect enemy is the *red spider*. This is a minute insect which covers the lower side of the leaf with a greyish web and sucks the juice out of the leaves until they are brown and withered. Tens of thousands of insects are found on every plant, but they are scarcely visible to the naked eye. Remedy: Spray the underside of the leaves thoroughly with tobacco solution or kerosene emulsion, or dust well with flower of sulphur when the leaves are wet. Sulphur is an effective remedy against all kinds of mites.

Anthraxnose or Cane Rust.—This is a fungous disease which affects the canes. Purple spots, which later spread out and become white with purple edges, are seen on the canes. Where this disease is found, the patch should be cut off close to the ground and burned. The new canes which come up should be kept well sprayed with Bordeaux mixture or lime-sulphur mixture.

Varieties to plant—

Red.—Sunbeam, Herbert, Ironclad, Turner, Miller, King, Loudon, Minnetonka, Cuthbert.

Yellow.—Carolina, Golden Queen.

Purple.—Columbian.

Black-caps.—Older, Gregg, Schaffer Colossal.

CURRENTS.

The wild currant is found all over the West thriving in all kinds of locations. Under cultivation this, perhaps, is the hardiest fruit-bearing plant that is found in the West. On account of its great hardiness, this fruit will grow and mature in northern districts where no other kind of fruit can be induced to thrive.