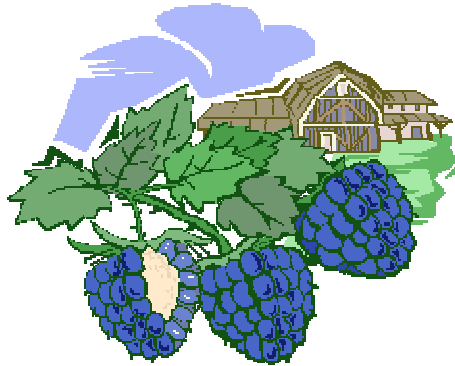


## Get the Most from your Caneberries



Home gardeners can help their raspberries and blackberries stay healthy and bear more fruit with a few simple chores during the fruiting season. Backyard caneberry growers need to perform a number of tasks during the growing season.

First, fertilize caneberries in the spring, if you haven't done so yet. Fall-fruiting (ever-bearing) raspberries also need another shot of fertilizer at bloom. Remove unwanted new canes or suckers that grow up between the rows. The earlier you remove unwanted canes, the better. Why wait until fall? If you remove them now you will save water and nutrients for the canes that you want.

Irrigate caneberries frequently throughout the fruiting season to ensure good fruit size. Raspberries and blackberries need about 15 gallons of water each week for mature plants. A drip system with two ½ gallon per hour emitters per plant is the most effective method to apply irrigation.

Among other recommendations:

- Pick fruit off when fully ripe to ensure good quality. Over-ripe fruit on the canes promotes fruit rot.
- Control weeds – they rob the fruiting canes of water and nutrients.
- Be on the lookout for insect pests, especially aphids and leaf rollers. Control if necessary.
- Prune and train most blackberries in either August or February. Prune raspberries in the winter.
- Apply mulch generously to conserve water and keep soil cool.

This article adapted from Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, USDA. Please contact the Farm Advisor's office at [cdcalaveras@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cdcalaveras@ucdavis.edu) or 754-6477 with your agricultural questions. Talk to a certified Master Gardener every Wednesday, 10:00-12:00, 754-2880. To speak with a Master Gardener in Tuolumne County, please call 209 533-5696.