

# Pruning Everbearing Raspberries

By Sarah Browning, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Raspberries can be divided into two groups, summer-bearing and fall-bearing. Fall-bearing plants, sometimes called “everbearing” raspberries, are increasingly popular because they can be managed to produce one large fall crop, making pruning easier.

Everbearing raspberries are able to produce two crops a year because they produce flower buds on both old and new canes, but by pruning out all canes every year, you create one large fall crop.

Common everbearing raspberry cultivars available to the home gardener include those below.

## Red

- Autumn Bliss’ — early ripening; large flavorful fruits; soft fruit texture
- ‘Autumn Britten’ — early- to late-season ripening; very large fruits; firm and flavorful; better fruit quality but lower production than Autumn Bliss
- ‘Caroline’ — early- to late-season

- ripening; very productive; widely adapted cultivar
- ‘Heritage’ — mid- to late-season ripening; medium-sized fruits; good color, flavor, firmness and freezing quality; vigorous plants
- ‘Redwing’ — mid-season ripening; large soft fruits with good flavor; moderate yield



Photo by Pixabay

Everbearing raspberries can easily be managed to develop one large fall crop each year through pruning.

## Yellow

- ‘Anne’ — mid- to late-season ripening; largest and best-lasting yellow raspberry; pale yellow fruits
- ‘Fall Gold’ — early-season ripening; medium size; excellent flavor; moderate yield

## Dormant Season Pruning

Manage your everbearing raspberries to produce one large crop each year by pruning plants in late winter (early- to mid-March) while the ground is frozen and before new growth has begun. By hand, rotary mower or other mechanical device, remove all above ground growth leaving a 1- to 2-inch stub for each cane. In August or early September, fruiting will occur on the current season’s growth.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nebraska Extension NebGuide, “Growing Raspberries,” (G1580) is available online at <http://go.unl.edu/raspberry>

# Seasonal Needle Drop on Evergreens

By Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate in Lancaster County

Do you have a pine tree with yellow needles? Natural needle drop results in interior needles of pine trees turning yellow and eventually dropping off. Fall needle drop is natural. It is not a sign of a disease or insect issue. Evergreens do not keep their needles indefinitely. As trees get older, this process is more noticeable. Older, inner needles, discolor and drop off after 1 to 5 years, depending on the evergreen in question.

Sometimes the drop occurs slowly. On other occasions, many needles may turn yellow all at once in late summer or fall. Because weather triggers the condition, many evergreens are likely to show symptoms in the fall. If you are not familiar with

this natural process, it could cause you a great deal of concern.

Each species of evergreens usually keeps its needles for a definite length of time. White pines are the most dramatically affected. They usually keep three



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Yellow needles from natural needle drop, as seen on this white pine, should not be mistaken for a pest problem.

years of needles in summer and two in winter. The three-year old white pine needles turn yellow throughout the tree in fall. The tree will appear particularly unhealthy when these yellow needles outnumber the green ones. Austrian and Scotch pine also keep their needles for three years and Norway pine keep theirs for four years.

Needles on arborvitae usually turn brown rather than yellow when they age. They often remain attached much longer than mature pine needles. Japanese yew needles turn yellow and drop in late spring or early summer of their third year. Spruce and fir needles also yellow and drop with age. These evergreens retain needles for several years, so you may not see needle drop unless you look closely on inner branches. These needle drop patterns vary from tree to tree and from year to year.

## GARDEN GUIDE

### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate in Lancaster County

September is a good time to root your cuttings from annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens. These plants can be overwintered in a sunny window and provide plants for next year’s garden.

Tree wound paints used after pruning are no longer recommended as they can slow healing and may promote decay.

Select accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees with red fall color are flowering dogwood, red maple, sugar maple, Norway maple, red oak and scarlet oak. Shrubs with red fall foliage include sumac, viburnum, winged euonymus and barberry.

Before the first frost, dig up caladiums. Allow them to dry and store them in a dry place for the winter.

Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.

Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.

Pears should be picked at the hard-ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.

Be sure to keep strawberry beds weed free. Every weed you pull now will help make weeding much easier next spring.

Rake up leaves, twigs and fruit from crabapple trees and dispose of them in the trash to help control apple scab disease.

Water newly-planted trees and shrubs to provide sufficient moisture and prevent winter damage. Add a two inch layer of organic mulch such as shredded bark around the base of plants to retain soil moisture and regulate soil temperature.

Wood ashes contain phosphorous, potassium and calcium. It can be placed on vegetable gardens and flower beds.