

Time to turn attention to caneberries

No matter how muddy the spring, it's time to slip on your boots and gloves and take care of blackberries and raspberries.

Established red raspberries and blackberries need some care in early spring to stay healthy and productive.

These caneberries should be fertilized starting in early spring when new growth begins, said Bernadine Strik, berry crops professor with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

For raspberries, apply 1 ounce of actual nitrogen (N) per plant. For blackberries, apply 2 ounces. Split the total amount of nitrogen into thirds, applying the first in early April, the second portion in late May, and the last portion in mid- to late June.

To calculate the amount of fertilizer to use, divide the recommended amount of actual nitrogen needed by the percent nitrogen in the product, which is shown as the first number on the front of the bag. For example, in raspberries if you are using a granular fertilizer such as 16-16-16 (16 percent nitrogen), then you would divide 2 by 0.16 to get 3.1 ounces of fertilizer. So, you'll need to use about 6 ounces of product (2 ounces of fertilizer per application); double this for blackberries.

"It's best to spread the fertilizer evenly around the plant over the surface of the soil in the row," Strik said. "I suggest an area about 2½ to 3 feet wide by 3 feet long for raspberries. For blackberries go 5 feet long."

Keep the area where



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

berries are growing free of weeds by removing them by hand. You can use a layer of sawdust or bark mulch to help reduce germination of weed seeds. Don't apply more than about 2 inches deep.

In all these caneberries, the plants are perennial with long-lived roots and crowns (base of plant), but the canes are biennial. Foliage on the new primocanes should be a healthy green color. A pale green or yellow color may indicate nitrogen deficiency, Strik said. If the plants seem to lack vigor, apply a little more nitrogen fertilizer.

Pruning caneberries can be confusing because different categories of raspberries and blackberries have separate pruning requirements. Strik lays it out like this:

Erect and semi-erect blackberries (as well as black raspberries), need summer and winter pruning to improve yield and fruit size.

For trailing blackberries, the new primocanes should not be pruned in summer. After harvest, floricanes die and should be cut to the ground and removed from the trellis in late August.

The new primocanes should be trellised in August or late winter after severe cold temperatures have passed. Wrap these around



Photo: flic.kr

Cascade Delight is a summer-bearing raspberry.

a two-wire trellis.

Summer-bearing red or yellow raspberries do not need to be pruned in summer. Take out the dead floricanes after fruiting in late summer.

Everbearing (or primocane-fruiting) red and yellow raspberries will produce fruit at the tips of the new primocanes in late summer through fall and can produce an early summer crop on the base of the floricanes. In winter, to prune for two crops a year, remove all of the primocane tips that fruited last year. The base of these canes will fruit in June or July, when they are floricanes, which should be removed when they die after harvest in July. The late-summer/fall crop will be produced on the new primocanes that grow next season. Keep the hedgerow of primocane-fruiting raspberries to about 12 inches

wide during the growing season.

To prune everbearing raspberries to produce in late summer to early fall, cut all canes to ground level in late February or early March when plants are dormant. When the new canes emerge, keep the row width to 12 inches apart.

This spring is a good time to look for new, improved varieties and established favorites in your local nursery or mail-order catalog. Most nurseries will order plants if they don't carry the one you want.

For more information about growing caneberries, check out these Extension publications: Growing Blackberries in Your Home Garden, Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden, Blackberry Cultivars for Oregon and Raspberry Cultivars for the Pacific Northwest.

MI TOWN

How's that spring cleaning going? Is the backyard garden ready for planting? It's that time of year for tossing a coin to determine what project to begin — or to complete. Some of us are really motivated to get closets cleaned and rooms re-decorated, while others are knee deep in garden soil, hoping to get everything planted between raindrops, or downpours.

Thirty-six Oregon members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve returned from a six-month deployment to Honduras, where they built a school, renovated a hospital and completed several projects, but didn't accrue GI Bill education benefits during this time. Fortunately, Rex Fuller, Western Oregon University president, and his staff worked to get access to the



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Voyager Award program, so these veterans who qualify will receive tuition assistance. MI Town's university now waives the application fee for veterans who wish to enter undergraduate and graduate programs. It's great to see our service men and women receive support for their service to our country.

Coffee and Conversation is held at the Monmouth Senior Center at 10:15 a.m., on the third Monday of every month. Kelly Cape and the Women's Auxiliary provide coffee and doughnuts. Veterans, current mili-

tary, and others are welcome to share conversation and common interests together.

This Saturday, the Monmouth Tree Advisory Board will celebrate Arbor Day at Main Street Park, beginning at 9 a.m. This is also the anniversary of Monmouth's designation as a Tree City, USA. Following the presentation, volunteers will plant new trees throughout the city. If you would like more information, please contact Mark Fancey at 503-751-0147. Tree planting volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

It's time for the Monmouth Senior Center's Victorian Tea, which is scheduled for April 21. Tickets may be purchased for either the noon or 2:30 p.m. seating, and are \$10. Please call

the Center at 503-838-5678 to see if any tickets are still available. This year's theme is "Let's Go Places." Some of the best cooks and bakers in MI Town will prepare an array of wonderful tempting goodies, and the yoga ladies, escorted by Jack Hinkle, will present a style show.

Another sure sign of springtime in MI Town is the seed lending library at Monmouth Public Library. Stop by the library during regular hours and take a few minutes to look at the flower and vegetable seed packets that are available at no cost. You may select three packets every day to take home to plant in the garden. Last year, we had bumper crop of green beans and peas, which we shared with friends and family and enjoyed all winter long.

PEDEE NEWS

Easter is coming. Pedee Church will be celebrating with its annual sunrise service at Womer Cemetery at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at the church for the community at 7, whether you make it to the sunrise service or not. The Easter service will be at 10.

Thanks to all who participated and supported the missions fundraiser and workday at Pedee Church on April 1. Many people worked to make this a success, wholeheartedly jumping in with willing hearts and skilled hands to be a blessing to the mission. Chip North headed the event; Adam Coe coordinated the rummage sale; and Pam



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Burbank and I took charge of the bake sale, while the kids sold lemonade and ice tea and plant starts. Tony and Debbie Rodriguez pressure-washed the church and did some heavy cleaning with the help of Dave Burbank, Andrew and Stephanie Weston, Tim Barnhart, Mike Bidwell, and Linda Chertudi. And Linda turned our weed beds into beautiful flower beds with the help of Mike McDowell.

Many others pitched in to help with several other jobs: Nic Heller, the Russell family, Scott and Melody Castle, Billy and Heather Traglia and kids, Eric Schwanke, Natalie Nichols, Brandon Simmons, and Chuck Goetzing. Diana Barnhart and Pam Burbank fueled up the group with chili dogs and chips at lunchtime.

I surely missed several names, but we appreciated every bit of help we had, plus thank all who came to purchase items. It was truly a community effort.

The Pedee Women's Club thanks the Monmouth Senior Center for donated several boxes of fabric, which

the group will turn into beautiful and useful quilts for CASA and the veterans home they support.

Paige Cochrane celebrated her 20th birthday with a dinner at North Dallas Bar and Grill in Dallas last Wednesday. Pretty close to all her immediate family joined her: parents Mick and Debbie Cochrane and brother Cole, grandparents Ted and Ethelene Osgood and Joe and Terri Cochrane, cousin Heather and Heather's daughter Bella, and close friend Gatlin. Her uncle Pete Osgood dropped in with Stephen to wish her a Happy Birthday, too. Paige is a sophomore at Willamette University in Salem.

LIBRARY CALENDAR

DALLAS
950 Main St. • 503-623-2633
www.ci.dallas.or.us/library
• Wednesday, April 12, 3:45 p.m. — Teen Advisory Board.
• Wednesday, April 12, 4:30 p.m. — Teen Book Club.
• Thursday, April 13, 2:30 p.m. — Lego building.
• Thursday, April 13, 4 p.m. — Author visit (Deborah Hopkinson).
• Tuesday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. — Children's Story Time.

503-838-1811
www.ci.independence.or.us/library
• Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.
• Thursday, April 13, 4:30 p.m. — Chess Club.
• Thursday, April 13, 6 p.m. — Mystery Book Club.
• Friday, April 14, 4 p.m. — Adult Coloring.
• Saturday, April 15, 3:30 p.m. — Cuentos en Español.
• Tuesday, April 18, 2 p.m. — Tiny Tots.

503-751-0182
www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library
• Thursday, April 13, 10:15 a.m. — Pre-school Explorers.
• Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m. — Once Upon a Thursday book club.
• Tuesday, April 18, 10:15 a.m. — Tales for Tots.
WAGNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
111 N. Main St., Falls City
503-787-3521, ext. 319
www.facebook.com/WagnerCommunityLibrary/timeline
• See the library's Facebook page for upcoming events.

INDEPENDENCE
175 Monmouth St.

MONMOUTH
168 S. Ecols St.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email lonews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-917-1681
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- Rickreall Watershed Council — 503-623-9680
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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TUESDAY, APRIL 18

- **Polk County Coin Club** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-362-9123.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** — Noon to 1 p.m., Salem Health West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Support group meets in the quiet room/chapel immediately inside the emergency entrance on Clay Street. Dee Ann White, 971-718-6444.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

- **Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank** — 10 a.m. to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517.
- **Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program Food Bank** — 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., 888 Monmouth Cutoff Road, Building E, Dallas. Weekly distribution for eligible community members. 503-831-5634.
- **Day-2-Day Diabetes Support Group** — 3 to 4 p.m., Salem Health West Valley (main conference room inside main entrance), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.

Music from the Redgate Winery & Fieldhouse

Fri. April 14, 6-9 PM
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