

usually removed in the autumn or winter at the same time as the new canes are thinned and tipped. There is, however, much to be said for cutting out the old canes as soon as possible after the fruit has been picked, giving the new canes a better chance of ripening properly. Early pruning may also help to maintain the health of the plantation, as the young canes are less likely to be infected by diseases on the old ones.

**Old canes are often cut off an inch or two above the ground, but they are very much better cut off below the surface, as the stubs of old, dead canes are known to serve as centres from which infection of cane blight (wilt) can spread.**

### Summer Work on Raspberries

Cane blight is one of the most serious diseases of the raspberry in New Zealand, causing canes to wilt and die, usually just before the berries ripen. The fungus can live for several seasons in the stumps of dead canes, from which infection is spread; hence the importance of the early cutting out of fruiting canes just below ground level as soon as the fruit has been picked. All prunings should be collected and burned as soon as possible after pruning.

The foundation for a first-class crop next year will be laid if, after the prunings have been removed, the new canes are thoroughly sprayed with a 3-4-50 Bordeaux mixture to which has been added 2lb. of lead arsenate to each 100 gallons of spray. The canes should be drenched and an endeavour made to drive the spray well down into the axils of the leaves. A reasonable control of raspberry bud moth and cane spot on the young canes should be obtained by prompt removal of diseased and old canes and by the spray application after harvesting.

### Pruning Black Currants

Black currants will bear fruit next season on the new shoots which have grown this year. Pruning should therefore consist of removing each year, after the fruit has been picked, as much as possible of the wood which has borne fruit, leaving the new shoots which have grown this year to bear next season's fruit. If pruning is done as soon as the last of the fruit has been picked, the new growths will have a better chance of ripening before the winter.

Cutting out the shoots which have just fruited involves some sacrifice of new growths, as each branch cut off will have a new shoot at its end. That cannot be helped, and is necessary if the bush is to be kept fruitful.



[Green and Hahn Ltd.]

A heavy crop of Lloyd George raspberries borne on a cane of the current season's growth, photographed in February. Two feet of typical cane bore 12 sprays of fruit, totalling 103 berries. Thirty ripe berries, each nearly 1in. in diameter, weighed 4oz.

Very thin new shoots should also be removed, as well as branches which cross or hang too low on the outside of the bushes, or are damaged.

Old, neglected black currant bushes present a pruning problem. There are probably few new growths, and those which do exist are usually borne high up on the bush. If the bushes are more than 10 years old, trying to bring them back into production is probably not worth while. They should be grubbed out and replaced. If the bushes

are worth saving, but are suffering from lack of proper attention to pruning, the best plan is to cut about two-thirds of the branches to within a few inches of the ground. This sacrifices most of the crop which would have been produced next year, but should ensure that the bushes produce ample new shoots, arising from near the base, to fruit in the following season. The old branches which are left this year should be cut back to ground level next year.