

Spring Caneberry Chores

This list was developed by Dr. Gina Fernandez, Small Fruit Specialist at NC State University and reviewed by Dr. Marvin Pritts at Cornell.

Chores and timing may be somewhat different in your area or for your cropping system.

Pruning and trellising

- ✓ Check buds and canes for damage.
- ✓ Finish pruning and make sure that all floricanes are tied to the trellis and old expended floricanes have been removed before budbreak.
- ✓ For fall-fruiting raspberries and blackberries, make sure canes are mowed to the ground before primocane emergence.
- ✓ Rotate shift trellises to horizontal position before budbreak; rotate to upright position immediately after flowering.

Weeds

- ✓ Weed growth can be very vigorous at the same time as the brambles crop peaks.
- ✓ Don't let weeds get out of control.
- ✓ Weed control is best done earlier in the season before harvest commences.
- ✓ Hand-weed perennial weeds in and around plots.

Insects and disease scouting

- ✓ Growers with a history of cane disease and or mites often find that certain fungicides (e.g. lime sulfur) and oils are most effective just prior to bud break. The period of time in the spring when the plant is flowering is the most important season for control of insects and diseases. Know what your pests are and how to control them.