

GARDEN TIME

BY M. E. GARDNER, N. C. State University

There are a number of jobs that should be accomplished in small fruit plantings after the harvest season has passed.

Strawberries. Most home gardeners use the matted row system when planting. If you have done a good job of caring for your plants, this system may be allowed to bear for one, two or even three years.

If you have strong, healthy plants at the end of the picking season, the row should be renovated or renewed. This can be done by thinning plants to a distance of 8 to 10 inches in all directions. Remove the runners as they form. Cultivate well by hoeing so that the rows will be free of weeds and grass.

Fertilize with 18 per cent nitrate of soda about August 15 in the mountains, and about September 15 at the lower elevations. Three pounds of nitrate of soda will be sufficient for 100 feet of row. Apply the material direction over the row of plants when the leaves are perfectly dry. After application go over the plants with a brush broom to remove fertilizer from the foliage.

Red raspberries. After harvest, prune out all of the old fruiting canes, leaving the new growth for next year's crop. It is best to destroy the old fruiting cane by burning.

It is a good plant to protect new growth with a combination insecticide and fungicide. Captan or fermate, plus malathion, may be used as a spray. Follow the manufacturers' instructions for mixing.

Black raspberries. Remove old fruiting canes and spray as suggested for red raspberries.

Dewberries. After harvest in Eastern Carolina, remove all canes, both new and old, and burn. This will reduce sources of disease infection. As new growth is initiated, spray the plants every two weeks using the same spray combination as suggested for raspberries. This is not a common practice but

is good insurance.

In the mountains, remove only the old canes that have fruited and spray as suggested for eastern Carolina. In most years, in the mountains, the growing season is not long enough to produce new canes for next year's crop.

Apply one-fourth pint of 8-8-8 fertilizer in a ring around each plant about July 1.

Bunch grapes. Spray every two weeks with fermate or captan, plus malathion, to control disease and insects, especially black rot.

Many Items in Food Stores Are Not Food

Needles, pins, lipstick, paper goods; you can buy them all in the food store.

But you shouldn't count them as part of the food bill, cautions Mrs. Ruby Uzzle, extension consumer marketing economist, North Carolina State University.

However, unless you are different from most shoppers you think of money spent in the food store as money spent for food. This means you blame the food bill for being at least 20 per cent higher than it really is.

About 23 cents out of every dollar spent in a food store isn't spent for edibles, Mrs. Uzzle observes. It pays for soap, paper goods, magazines, hand lotion and similar items.

What's wrong with buying nonfood items in a food store? "Nothing," says Mrs. Uzzle, "if you admit they are not part of the food bill."

Food shoppers spend most of their nonfood money for household alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, health and beauty aids, soft drinks and pet products, the specialist observes.

In addition, more than half of all aspirin sales and almost half of all the shampoo sales in the

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country are made in food stores.

Impulse shoppers also put small kitchen utensils and gadgets, snack sets and magazines in the shopping cart alongside meat, milk products and vegetables.

"Be fair to your food bill," Mrs. Uzzle advises. "When you buy nonfood items think of them separately, not in the same category as edibles, she adds.

HOME ECHOES

by Marie Penuel

? — What is meant by programmed cooking in an automatic electric oven? Automatic timers turn oven on and off at pre-set times, reduce temperature to keep food warm after it is done. Automatic temperature controls change oven temperature during various stages of cooking.

? — Why does a 7-inch cut rib roast usually sell for less per pound than a 5-inch cut? According to USDA, the 7-inch cut — and because it has longer bones and more waste fat than the 5-inch cut, it sells for less per pound.

? — How long should I scald whole kernel corn for freezing? Scald cleaned ears 6 to 8 minutes. Cool quickly in cold water. Package, label and freeze.

? — How do you freeze Southern Style Cream Corn? Cut off tips of cleaned ears. (Make another thin slice, if you like.) Scrape cob. Add enough water to keep corn from sticking. Bring to a boil and let boil 4 minutes. Chill quickly. Package and freeze.

TOBACCO FLOWERS CAN PROVE TO BE VERY EXPENSIVE

The tobacco field is an expensive place to grow flowers.

North Carolina State University specialists suggest that allowing flowering and seed heads to remain on tobacco plants could cost growers up to \$15 to \$20 per day.

"We feel that tobacco should be topped just as soon as practical," said Dr. Bill Collins, extension tobacco specialist.

"The best time usually is between button and early flower stages — or as soon as the plant has the number of leaves the farmer wants."

Collins said some growers are reluctant to top tobacco until the seed head is in full flower, largely because topping leads to sucker development.

"Now that we have contact type materials to kill young suckers, there is no reason to leave the flower on the plant any longer than is absolutely necessary," the specialist said. "As long as it's there, it's robbing the leaves of growth and development."

He added that the flower will reduce potential yield by about 1 per cent per day as long as it is left on the plant. "When you figure that our farmers are getting 2,000 to 2,500 pounds of tobacco per acre, that comes to 20 to 25 pounds of weight lost per day. That could mean a dai-

ly loss of \$15 to \$20 per acre," Dr. Collins pointed out.

Avoiding this kind of loss is one way growers have to offset some of the damage dry weather has caused in some parts of the state.

Citing another advantage, Collins pointed out that topping also reduces the risk of plants being blown over by high winds.

"Get the top out and apply a contact sucker treatment — that's what we are urging growers to do," the specialist emphasized. Contact treatment can be applied anytime, even under dry conditions. This is unlike the use of systemic type sucker agents such as maleic hydrazide (MH). These are effective only when soil moisture is present and the plant is growing.

Dr. Collins warned that certain precautions should be taken in applying contact sucker killers. "Use the proper equipment," he suggested. "A three-nozzle per row arrangement is best. Also, use low pump pressure (20 to 25 pounds per square inch)."

In cases where tobacco has bloomed prematurely, the flower should be removed immediately and a sucker "turned out". Topping in this case should be done well down the stalk, Collins said. This will result in the second sucker being turned out to become the top portion of the plant.



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