

## Raspberry selection depends on location

**UNIVERSITY PARK** — Selection of raspberry varieties to grow in Pennsylvania, like most fruit depends on where you live, says Roland Daniels, associate professor of horticulture at Penn State.

He described the variety selection process during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association recently in Hershey.

Raspberries require tolerance to hot summers as well as cold winters, he pointed out. The southeastern part of the state, for example, is a problem area for red raspberries due to high temperatures. Black raspberries are best suited to southeastern counties, he claimed.

"Research has shown that red raspberry plants lose water faster than any other small fruit. Thus, it's understandable that red

raspberries may be harder to get through hot summers than through cold winters," he stated.

And he said the ridge and valley region which sweeps from the southcentral counties into the northeast is suited to all three kinds — red, purple, and black raspberries.

The Allegheny plateau, further west, is best suited for all three types. Finally, the Erie County area, especially along Lake Erie, is equally suited to all three.

Daniels called attention to varieties considered standards by commercial growers in Pennsylvania. Among red raspberries he listed Heritage Hilton, Latham, Newburgh, Reveille, Sentinel, and Taylor.

The standard commercial varieties among black raspberries, he said, are Allen, Black Hawk, Bristol, Cumberland, and

Logan Purple 'standards are Brandywine, Clyde, and Sodus.

Unusual winter conditions, of course, can cause crop failure. An example was a planting of Heritage raspberries that suffered severe winter injury at Penn State's Horticultural Research Farm in central Pennsylvania in 1977. During the same winter, the variety Reveille was undamaged.

And he suggested that the variety Heritage, although an everbearer, would be best used as a fall-bearing raspberry. As recommended, Heritage should be cut off or mowed at the ground after harvest.

Knowing the general vigor of a variety if equally important in selecting those to plant, he said. The more vigorous the variety, the easier it is to establish.

"Hardy plants are capable of supporting the largest crops

Sturdy plants compete best with weeds and are best able to resist diseases and infection," Dr. Daniels affirmed.

The variety Reveille, it was noted grows to nearly six feet at Penn State's Horticultural Research Farm. Another vigorous cultivar in Fallgold, which develops an excellent bed of tall, stiff canes.

"The cheapest way to resist diseases and insects," he stated, "is to choose cultivars with disease and insect resistance — and to purchase disease-free stock."

In selling fresh raspberries, varieties that do best are bright colored rather than 'dusty' looking, he observed. Amethyst, a new purple variety, has a more shiny appearance than other purple raspberries. The "dusty" look of Reveille, an otherwise excellent red variety, detracts

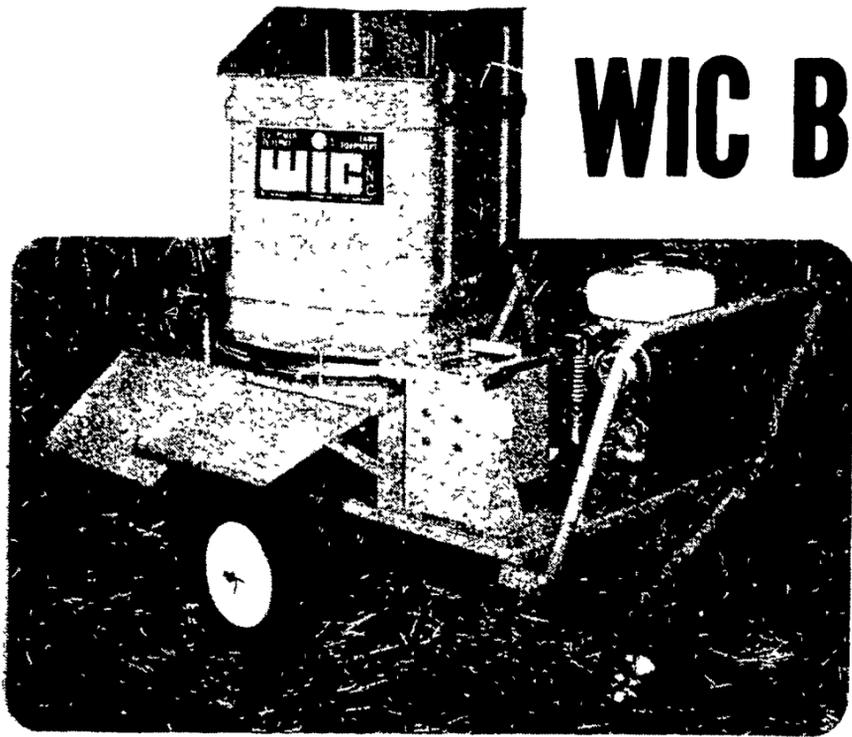
from its appearance.

The Penn State horticulturist described Fallgold, as, the sweetest fruit I've ever tasted." But he wonders whether fruit lovers are ready to buy yellow raspberries since "they're not accustomed to yellow berries."

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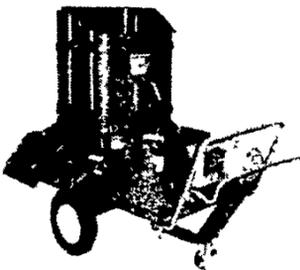
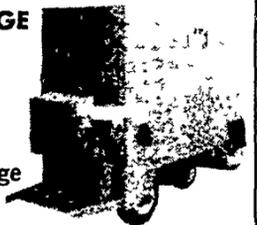
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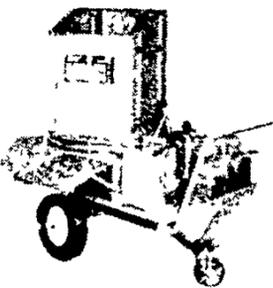
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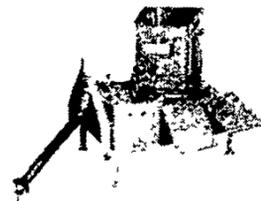
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