

When growing for the primocane crop only, primocanes are allowed to grow and fruit. Canes are then mowed to the ground during winter, and the entire sequence of primocane growth and fruiting is repeated. Significant savings in pruning costs are recognized with this type of system. Control of certain diseases can be accomplished through pruning. By mowing down the planting and removing the residue, disease that may move from floricanes to primocanes will be eliminated since there will never be any primocanes. With raspberries, mowing the planting down results in a larger primocane crop since there will be no fruiting stress on plants early in the summer.

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Trellising Caneberries

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The **two-wire vertical trellis** is very similar to the kniffin system used with grapes. Posts are set about 20 to 25 feet apart. The size of the end posts should be based on the length of the row. They need to be set deeper, have supplemental anchors and be larger posts than line posts since all wire tensioning is done from the end posts. The function of the line posts is to hold the trellis wires at a certain height aboveground. Trellis wires should be strong enough and tight enough to avoid sagging as this will affect light relationships within the canopy. End posts should be at least 8 feet long, with 2 feet in the ground. Line posts should be about 7 feet long with 1 1/2 feet in the ground. Use 12-gauge galvanized wire for the upper trellis wire, which should be about 5 feet off the ground for blackberries. For the lower wire, 14-gauge galvanized wire positioned 3 feet off the ground should provide good early support for canes. Fan out primocanes on the wires and tie them loosely to the wire. Top the primocanes during the growing season once they get about 4 to 6 inches higher than desired (Diagram 6).

A **single cross-arm trellis** (Diagram 7) appears to work well with red raspberries. Posts are set about 20 to 25 feet apart. They should extend above ground about 5 feet. End posts should be set about 2 feet deep and line posts about 1 1/2 feet deep. Attach an 18-inch crossarm to the top of the posts and run

a 12-gauge galvanized wire down the row on each side of the crossarm. Position canes between the wires and either loosely tie them to the wires or hold them in place using clips between the wires.

A **double cross-arm trellis** (Diagram 8) uses a 12- to 18-inch cross-arm at 3 feet and at 5 feet above ground. Wires should extend down the row on each side of both cross-arms. Canes should be positioned between cross-arms as they grow.

A **temporary trellis** designed similar to the single or double cross-arm trellis can be used in primocane-bearing caneberries being grown for the fall crop only. Holes should be dug 3 feet deep about every 25 feet down the row and lined with a piece of plastic pipe. In midsummer, insert posts 8 feet in length in the holes. Attach 18-inch long cross-arms at 30 and 60 inches above ground. Use a heavy twine instead of wire down the sides of the cross-arms to contain the canes. Following harvest and before new primocane growth begins in spring, remove the twine and the posts to permit mowing down the entire planting (Diagram 9).

Diagrams 1-9

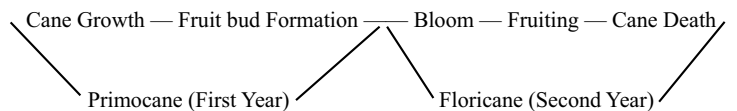


Diagram 1. Biennial life cycle of a bramble cane*
* excluding everbearing types

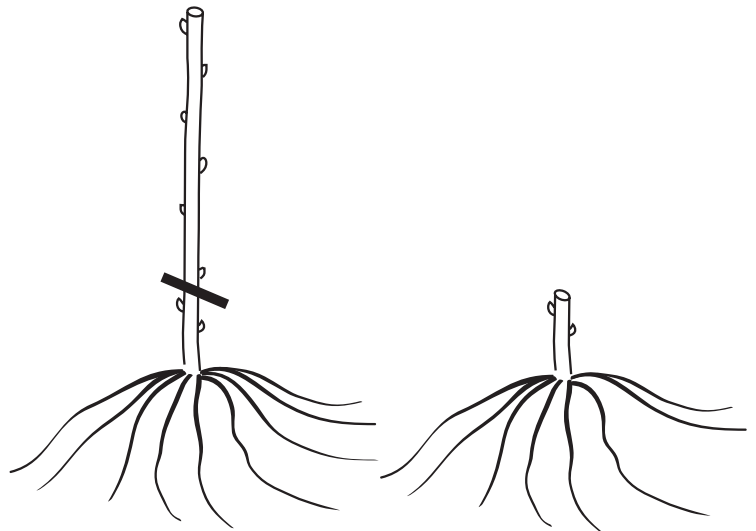
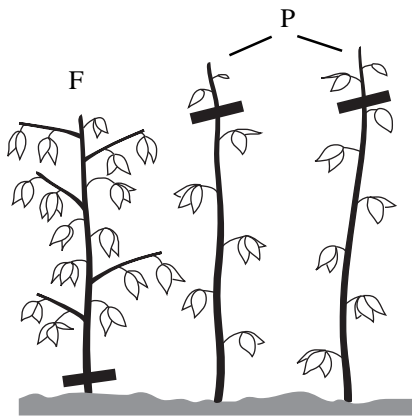
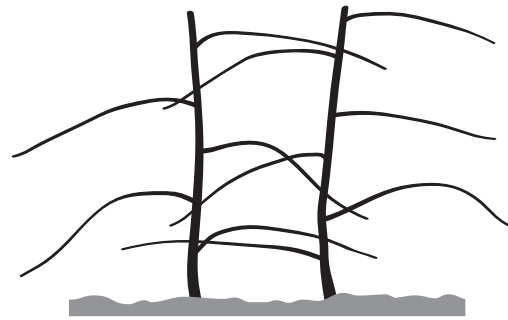


Diagram 2. Head the rooted cutting just above the ground line to force bud break from crown buds.

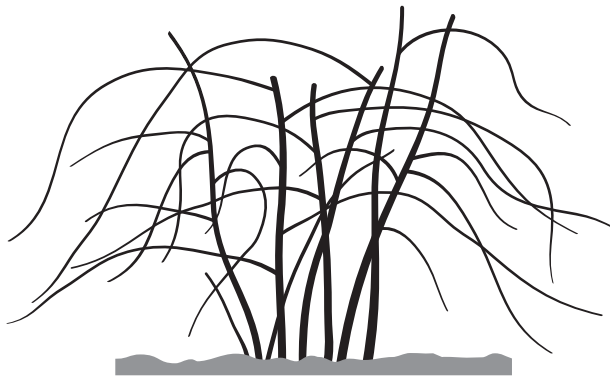


(A) Remove floricanes (F) immediately after harvest. Head primocanes (P) during the summer.

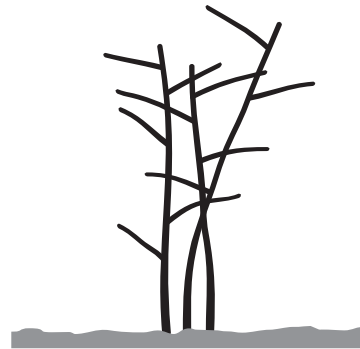


(B) Lateral branching as a result of primocane heading.

Diagram 3. Summer pruning blackberries, black raspberries and purple raspberries.

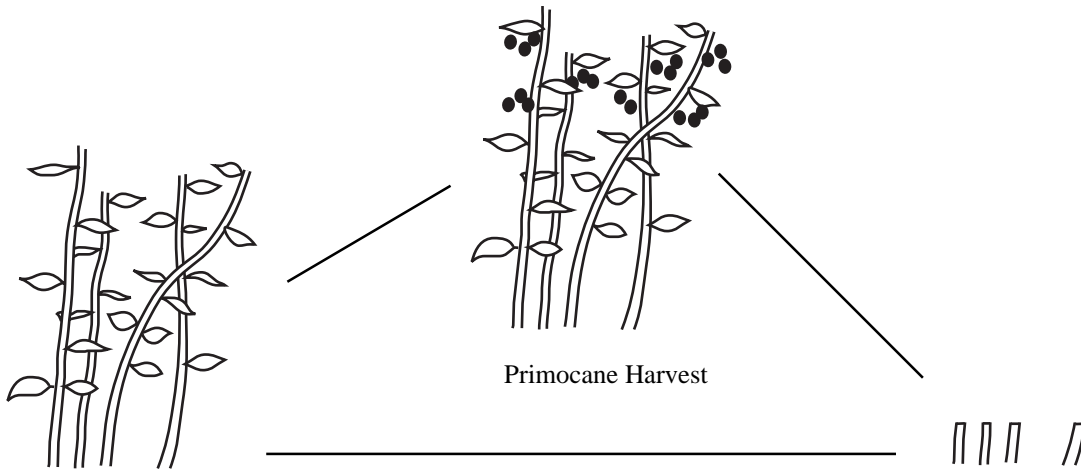


(A) Before dormant pruning



(B) Head laterals.
Remove laterals on lower 12 - 18 inches of canes.
Remove excess canes.

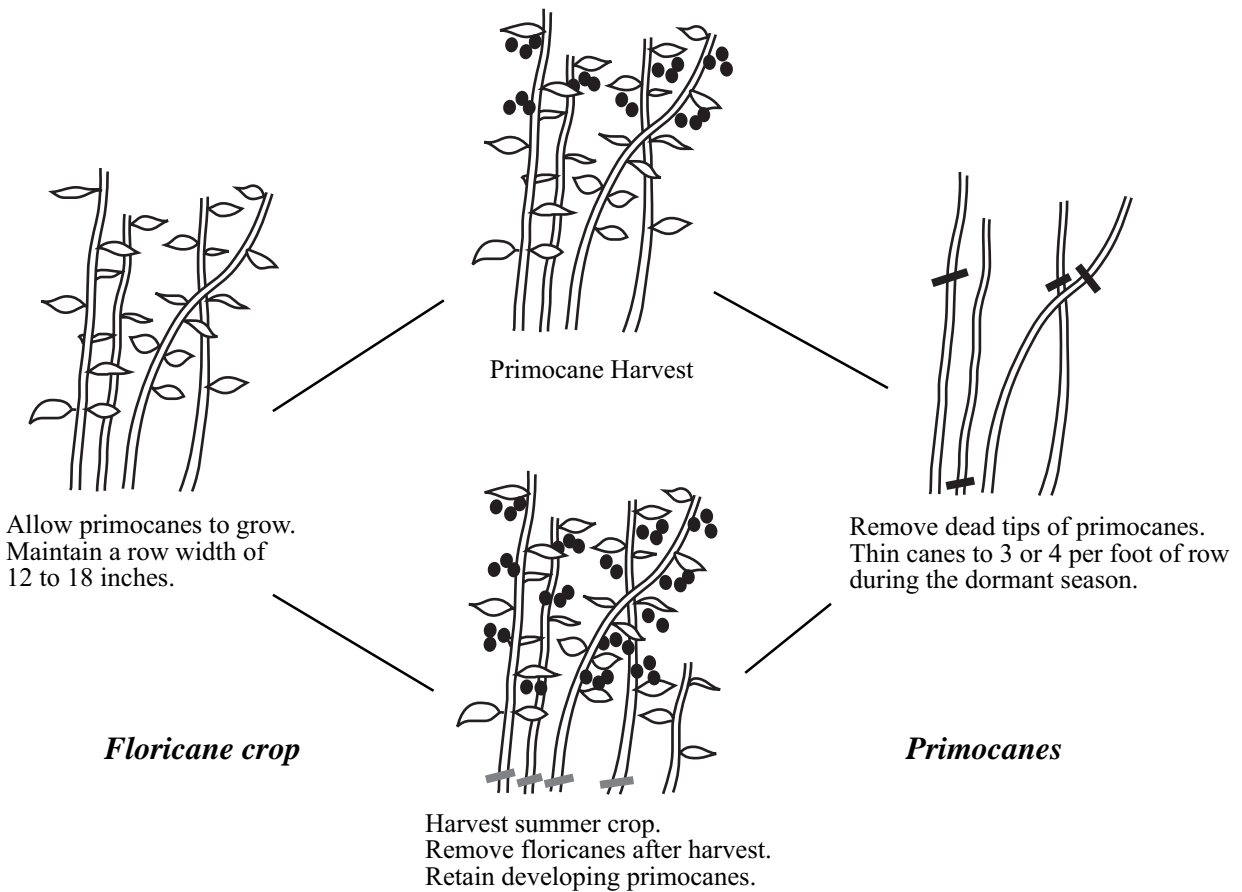
Diagram 4. Dormant pruning of blackberries, black raspberries and purple raspberries.



Allow primocanes to grow.
Maintain a row width of 12 to 18 inches.

Mow down the planting late
in the dormant season.

(A) Primocane crop

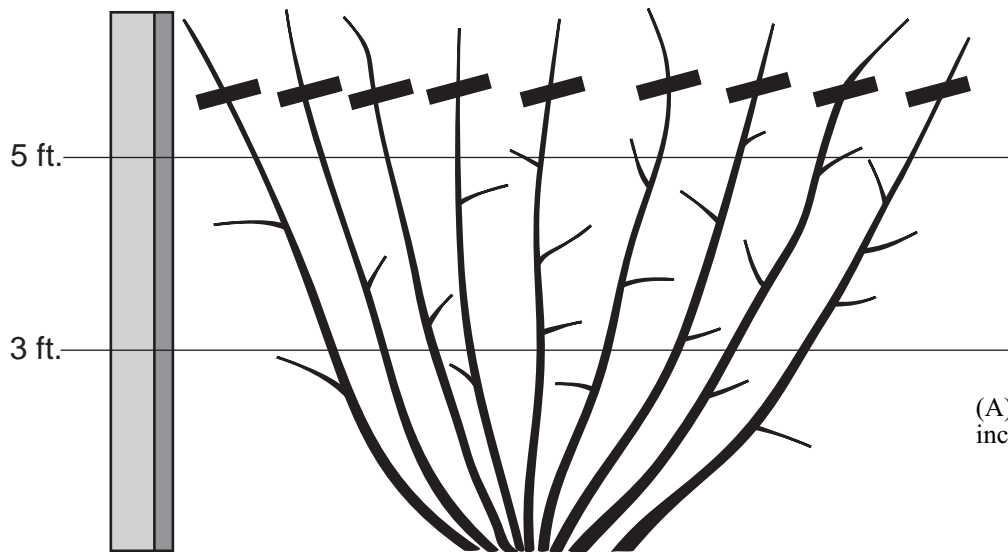


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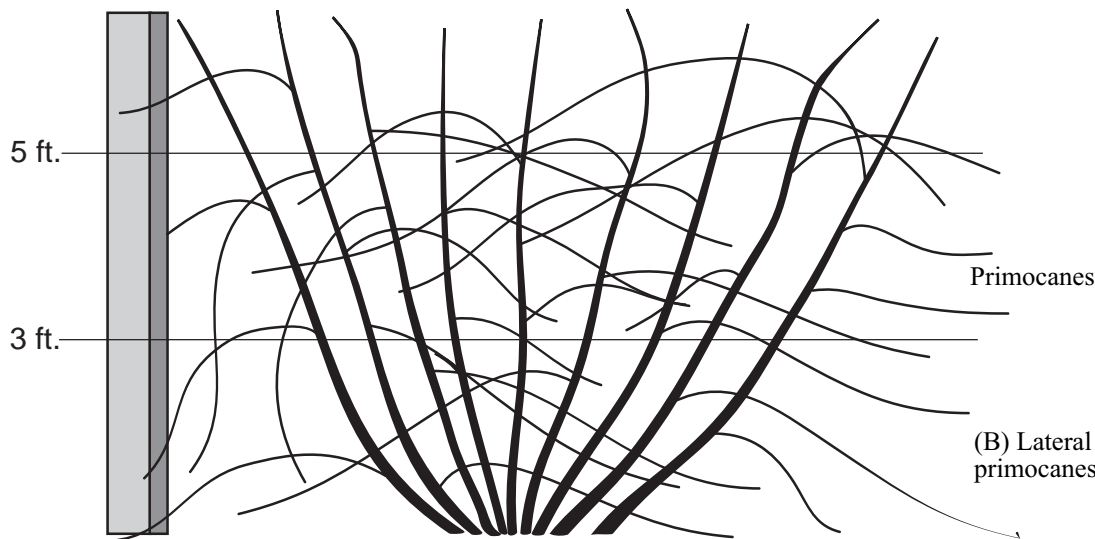
Remove dead tips of primocanes.
Thin canes to 3 or 4 per foot of row
during the dormant season.

(B) Primocane and floricane crops

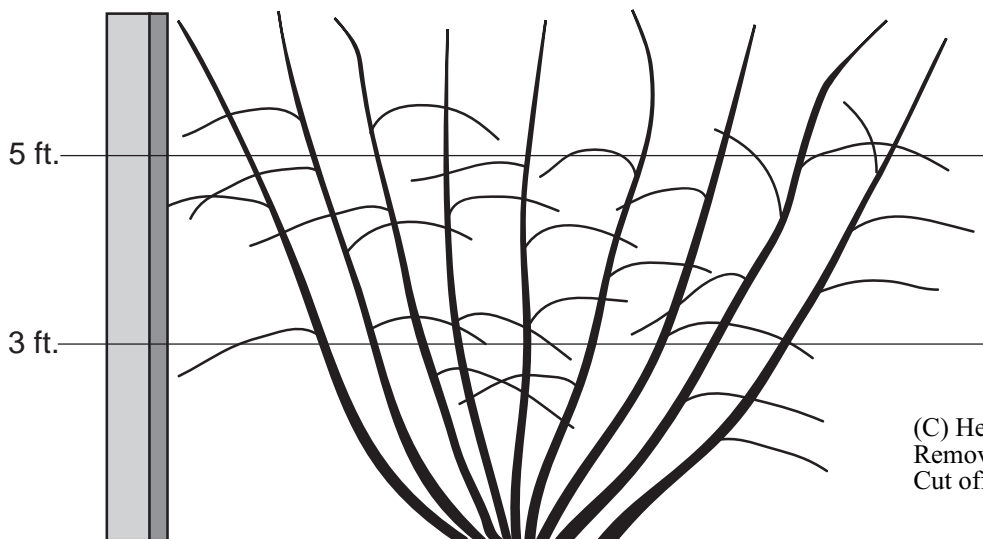
Diagram 5. Pruning everbearing raspberries for the primocane crop only (A) or the primocane crop and floricane crops (B).



(A) During summer, tip primocanes 4 to 6 inches above the top wire.



(B) Lateral branching as a result of tipping primocanes.



(C) Head laterals to 12- 18 inches in length. Remove laterals on the lower 18 inches of canes. Cut off weak and diseased canes.

Diagram 6. Fan system of pruning and training semi-erect brambles on a two-wire vertical trellis.

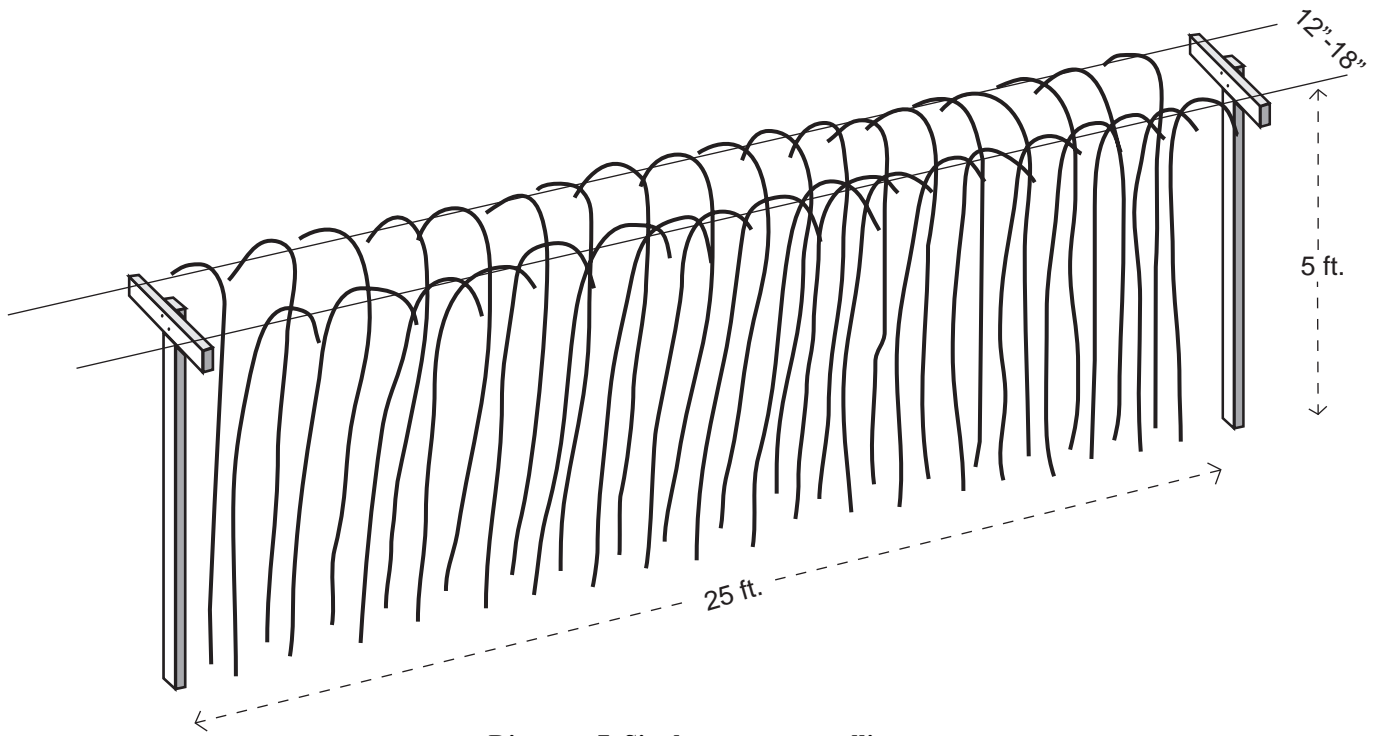


Diagram 7. Single cross-arm trellis.

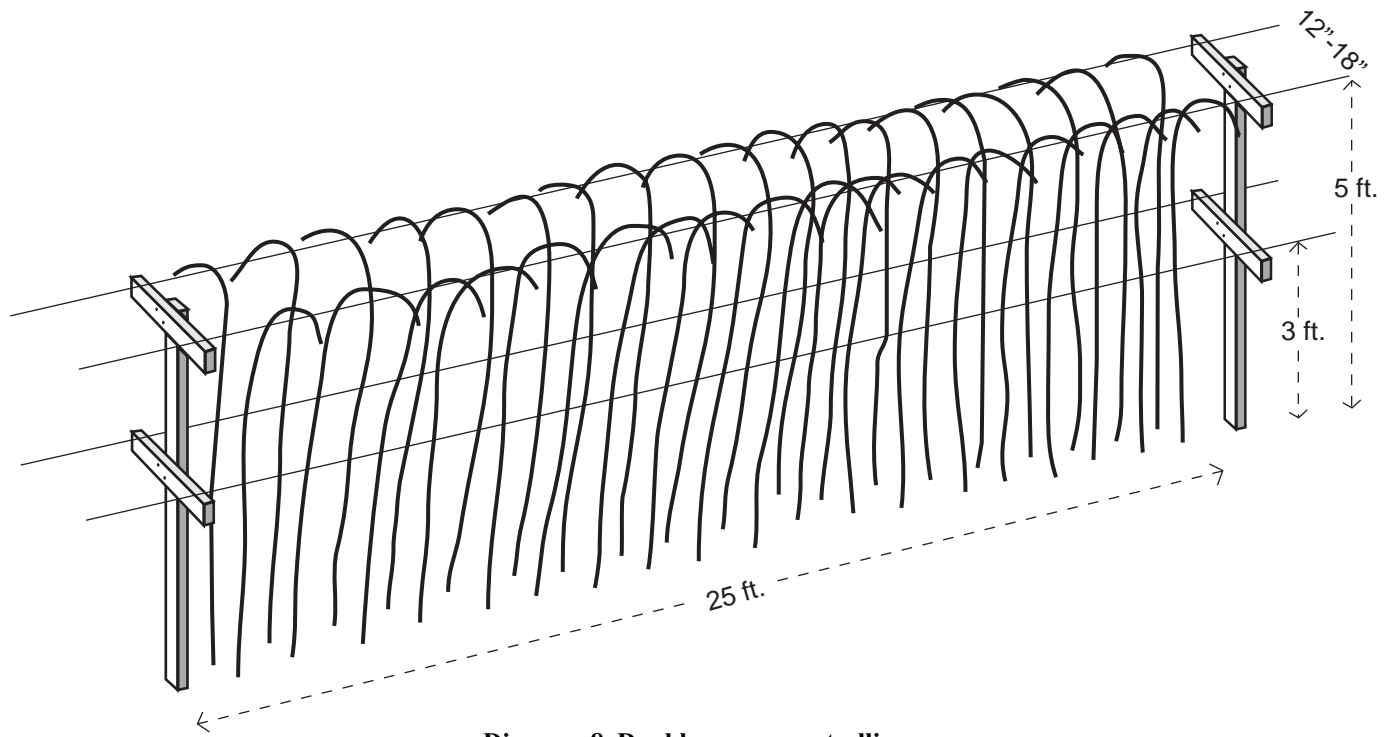


Diagram 8. Double cross-arm trellis.

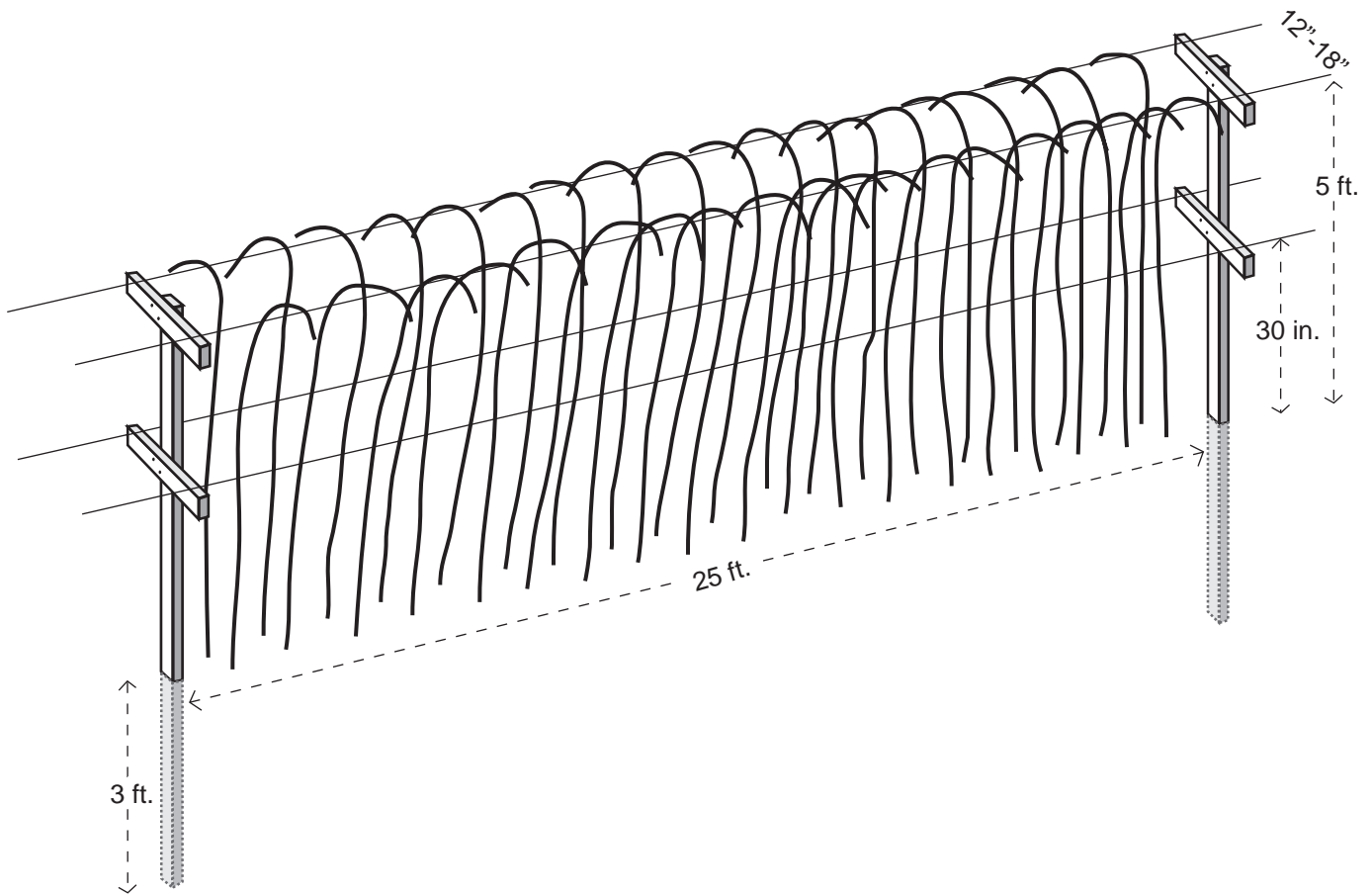


Diagram 9. Temporary trellis for everbearing raspberries.

SP 284G(Rev) 09/14

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