

## Heritage, A New Fall Bearing Red Raspberry

DONALD K. OURECKY\*

The red raspberry is one of the finest high quality fruits grown. First, the June bearing varieties may be enjoyed for 2-3 weeks in the summer, and then the fall-bearers fruit 4-6 weeks in the fall or until frost in Western New York.

Heritage is the latest in the series of fall-bearing red raspberries released from the breeding program at the Geneva Experiment Station, September having been introduced in 1947, and Indian Summer in 1936. Some of the parents used in the early breeding work included Ranere, Erskine Park and selections of *Rubus strigosus*. Today many outstanding selections have been obtained with various fruiting habits, degrees of branching, dates of ripening, and increased fruit size.

Heritage, formerly identified as New York 696, originated from a cross between New York 463 (Milton X Cuthbert) and Durham, and was selected in 1960 from a population of 32 seedlings.

Heritage has consistently outperformed all other fall-bearing varieties at Geneva. The primocanes are extremely sturdy and erect, requiring no support. The plants are very vigorous, and sucker profusely. The foliage is attractive, with large oblong leaves. The branching habit depends a lot upon the area where it is grown. In Maryland, Heritage ripens in early August, and produces more long laterals than further north, where the growth is more compact.

The summer crop is moderate, depending upon the portion of the primocane that fruited the previous fall. Under optimum growing conditions, a

fair crop can be produced the first year. At Geneva, fruit may be picked from about September 1st until the first hard frost. Several years, while under test, Heritage started to ripen around August 20th.

The berries from the fall crop are slightly larger than those produced in the summer. They are medium-sized, very firm, attractive and of excellent quality. The fruit remains in good condition on the plant even when overripe.

Fall-bearing red raspberries may open a totally new concept in raspberry production. Since the primocanes are not woody they may be moved from side to side for mechanical harvesting or bent over a catching frame. No pruning or topping would be required, since all canes could be mowed or chopped to ground level after a hard frost, thus sacrificing the summer crop. Rows could be narrowed in early spring with a disk. This type of operation may also result in slightly earlier fruit.



\*Department of Pomology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York.