

Mark your calendar for an upcoming workshop! The Steele County Extension office with Maple River Winery is hosting a wine making workshop and wine sampling event (you must be 21 or older to sample wines). This workshop will introduce you to the basic techniques for making your own wine at home. You will also learn about fruits used for making wine and sample some wines and cheeses made in North Dakota. The event is being held **on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hope Legion Hall**. The registration fee is \$15 on or before May 8<sup>th</sup> and \$20 after May 8<sup>th</sup> and at the door. More information and registration forms are available on our website at [www.ag.ndsu.edu/steelecountyextension/](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/steelecountyextension/).

A productive fruit grown in North Dakota that has a high nutritional value and can also be used for making wine are raspberries. Raspberries should be grown in areas protected by either buildings or trees but should be planted at least 50 feet away from shade trees or windbreaks. Sites where potatoes or tomatoes were previously grown should be avoided to reduce the possibility of verticillium wilt infection. Also, a weed free seeding bed is important for good establishment and growth of raspberries.

Pruning is another important part of raspberry production. Spring pruning should take place before any growth takes place and should consist of thinning the canes to about 6 inches apart. Keep in mind each row should be only 18 inches wide, so any canes outside of the row should also be pruned off. Then the remaining canes should be tipped back to 3 to 3 ½ feet tall, since shortened canes are less likely to break under a load of fruit. In mid-summer after the raspberries have finished fruiting, all canes that bore fruit should be removed. These old canes will die the following winter since the canes of raspberries live only two years. The first year each cane grows as a shoot starting from the root. The second year each cane fruits and dies. The canes that have completed fruiting compete with young canes for moisture and nutrients and can also harbor insects and diseases. For more information about raspberries or the wine making workshop, contact the Extension office at 701-524-2253 or e-mail Alicia at [alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu](mailto:alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu). NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.