

# GARDEN SPOT

## Taking the thorns out of blackberry picking



MARTY FIGLEY

Have you ever been blackberry picking? Let me tell you, those prickly thorns are sure stubborn and try their best to keep you from the lush fruits. As a child in southern Ohio, our family went "blackberrying," and I remember the outings just as I remember having a cloth soaked in kerosene tied around my ankles to keep the chiggers off.

Margaret Miller of Birmingham has pretty much licked some of those problems associated with "blackberrying."

"I love blackberries, but I didn't like the pricklers and they grew all over, spreading runners underground, and I just couldn't handle that," she said.

Five years ago she found a source for thornless plants, and the original ones in her garden have been replaced. Margaret doesn't remember which mail-order company she used, but you might want to try Hartmann's in Grand Junction, phone (616) 253-4281.

This name was given to me by a gentleman at Makielski Berry Farm & Nursery, 7130 Platt Road, Ypsilanti 48197 (call (313) 572-0060). He suggests that "Chester" is a good thornless variety, and although they no longer sell plants, they do have a U-pick farm, open Aug. 20 to Oct. 20 each year where their specialties are red raspberries as well as yellow ones.

### Going strong

When Margaret planted the new dormant eight- to 10-inch-tall plants in the spring, she enriched the soil with Canadian peat, which keeps the soil soft, and used Rapid-Gro. A few berries were the result the first year, but since then there has been an abundance of fruit.

"They haven't stopped since." This year they were even better, and she attributes it perhaps to the hot weather. A yield of two gallons resulted from seven plants.

This variety of berry produces new plants by runners on top of the ground. Since she feels she has enough for her own and her family's needs, she shares these new plants with friends and

See FIGLEY, 8D



...the tradition of fine craftsmanship means the furniture you buy is built to last. At Sherwood Studios, we're committed to creating timeless, beautiful furniture. Our classic and contemporary styles will help you build a collection for the future.

### SAVE 50%

ON THE ENTIRE LINE OF BERNHARDT FURNITURE NOW THRU NOVEMBER 12TH!



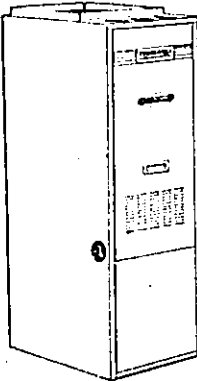
Professional interior designers  
Fine furniture, accessories & gifts  
Complimentary light breakfast

In-stock only. Sorry, no special orders.



6644 Orchard Lake Road  
at Maple • SK 855-1600  
Salem, Michigan • 48860  
Newport • 810 • 580

# SEARS PRE-SEASON CENTRAL HEATING OFFER



**0%** No Billing  
No Payments  
No Finance  
Charges Until Jan. 1996

Furnaces-Boilers  
Mobile Home Applications  
For Free In Home Estimates  
**1-800-659-1174**  
Full 5 year parts warranty  
on all Kenmore furnaces

# SEARS

Your Heating and Cooling Headquarters