



Blackberries

A WEALTH OF EBONY FRUIT ON DURABLE VINES

Antioxidant-rich blackberries are among the easiest fruits to grow at home, and their attractive berries are a welcome midsummer treat. Blackberries are also a good choice for planting because of the benefits of picking, storing, and freezing blackberries.



types

Blackberries are classified botanically as *Rubus*, a family that includes raspberries. boysenberries, marionberries or loganberries are just common names for different blackberry varieties.

You may be tempted to start your blackberry patch with plants from a neighbor, but don't accept donated plants unless you're sure that the patch is healthy. Viruses are a widespread problem with plants in the wild.

planting

Plant in early spring, choosing a well-drained site in full sun. Be sure it is at least 300 ft. from any wild blackberries. Construct trellises for trailing varieties before planting. Space upright varieties at 3 ft. intervals in rows 8 ft. apart. Set trailing varieties 5 to 8 ft. apart in row 6 to 10 ft. apart. Set plant 1" deeper than they were grown in the nursery.

growing

Cultivate shallowly, the roots are near the surface. Mulch with a thick layer of shredded bark, wood chips, leaves, or hay. Plant usually don't require pruning the first year. Prune out fruiting canes as soon as berries are harvested each summer, and select replacement cane for the following year. To prevent winter injury, lay the canes of trailing types on the ground in the winter and cover with a thick layer of mulch. Blackberries are subject to a number of different disease and insect pests, so keep an eye on them during the growing season.

We have chosen the following varieties:

Blackberries

Chester: Medium to large, deep black. Thornless, semi-upright. Very sweet. Excellent eaten fresh. Ripens: July.

Darrow: Large, near black. Thornless, semi-upright. Firm, juicy and have honey sweet, true blackberry flavor. Produces well at an early stage. Ripens: July.

Triple Crown: Large, glossy black. Thornless, semi-upright. Combination of sweetness and tartness. Firm, heavy producer. Ripens: Mid July to Aug.



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