

# MULBERRIES

Mulberries come in shades from white through pink, red, and almost black. This diversity emerges from three main species and hybrids, among them: *Morus alba*, native to Asia; *Morus rubra*, native to eastern North America; and *Morus nigra*, which features in classic Persian, Turkish, and Greek cuisines. Eat them fresh, dried, juiced, or in baked goods. All are self-fertile, with few pests or disease problems.

These vigorous growers should be trained to a strong scaffold while young, with minimal ongoing pruning needed, except to keep the fruit within reach. Prune in spring, before the buds open, and avoid removing large branches. Birds and children love mulberries - consider netting the ones you'll eat and sharing the rest!

## Varieties Expected for 2024

<b>BLACK BEAUTY</b>	Naturally dwarf variety to 10'. Large, black fruit ripens late May into June. Delicious sweet-tart flavor similar to blackberries.
<b>COOKE'S PAKISTAN</b>	Fast growing tree with jumbo, maroon-black berries to 3-5", with sweet, raspberry-like flavor. Weeks long fruiting season, late spring into summer.
<b>EARLY BIRD</b>	Earliest of them all! Abundant, very flavorful, sweet, black fruit starting in June through July. Wonderful fresh or dried. Extend the season with a later ripening variety.
<b>ILLINOIS EVERBEARING</b>	Large, glossy, nearly seedless fruit. Black when fully ripe. Pleasant mix of tart-sweet, similar to blackberries, but without seeds. Tree is slender and fast growing. Fruits hold well on tree.
<b>MATSUNAGA</b>	Breeding breakthrough and RHS Plant of the Year Award winner! New, very dwarf (to 5', suitable for containers), robust variety from Japan bears heavy yields of tasty, black fruit June-September.
<b>PENDULA</b>	Dwarf, weeping form to 6-10' tall and wider. Flavorful, easy to reach, pink-red to purple fruit in summer. Flavor similar to blackberry.
<b>PERSIAN</b>	Large, flavorful, purple fruit in summer. Good sweet-tart balance, similar flavor to blackberries.
<b>TEAS WEEPING</b>	Fast growing, heat loving small tree (to 20' x 20') with graceful weeping form and delicious, blackberry-like fruit. Zones 3-9.
<b>UNRYU</b>	Contorted variety to 30', but usually pruned to 15'. Highly ornamental, graceful branching but small and few fruits. Fast growing and very adaptable. Drought and heat tolerant.