

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, and fruit over a long period.

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 2026

EARLY BIRD	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.
DWARF BLACK	The delicious shining black fruits are less than 1" long, and the tree is less than 12' tall. Good for a small yard!
EL DORADO	This tree is on the smaller side, maybe 15', producing buckets of big fat white to yellow (gold?) fruits.
GERARDI DWARF	Tree? More like a large and fruitful shrub! Reaches only about 8-10' tall, with plentiful sweet black fruits.
ILLINOIS EVERBEARING	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.
KOKUSO	Extremely cold hardy, productive, early bearing variety from Korea. Exotic, sweet fruit to 2" long, with firm texture ideal for processing.
MOJO	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.
OSCAR	Black when fully ripe, but eaten red the flavor is like raspberries. Very drought tolerant and productive tree, to 25'.
SHANGRI LA	Shangri La grows big sweet-tart berries and big heart-shaped leaves on a 25-30' tree for a striking addition to the garden.
TEAS WEEPING	Fast growing, heat loving small tree (to 20' x 20') with graceful weeping form and delicious, blackberry-like fruit. Zones 3-9.
UNRYU	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.
WELLINGTON	Classic variety yields med-sized, tart-sweet, blackberry-like fruits over a long harvest season in summer. Typically grows to 20'.