

BLACKBERRIES

The Blackberries of the West are bred from those of the East and Midwest. They are shrubs with long, trailing branches. The fruit flavor is influenced by the wild blackberries of the Northwest.

PLANTING: Plant erect varieties 2-4’ apart and trailing varieties 5-6’ apart. Prune heavily at planting to encourage new growth. The roots are very sensitive to sunlight, so plant on a cloudy day.

CULTURE: Blackberries prefer rich soil, full sun and ample water (about one inch of water per week). Blackberry roots are perennial, the canes biennial: they fruit on second year growth. Each cane produces only once. The roots will produce for about ten years. Feed with a complete fertilizer at bloom time. Keep the area well weeded.

STAKING & PRUNING: Blackberries grow best on a trellis. String 2 wires 5 feet high with 18” between the wires. Train 1 year old canes on the trellis. Remove canes that have fruited after harvest and train canes of the current season onto the trellis. Prune these between 6-8 feet and remove all but 12-16 canes. In early spring, prune side branches to 1 foot.

VARIETIES EXPECTED FOR 2026

BABY CAKES	Thornless! Dwarf with large, juicy berries in summer. Often bears twice per year. Compact habit to 3-4’, perfect for container culture.
BOYSEN-BERRY	Popular for high yields and sweet-tart flavor. Eaten fresh, canned or frozen. Hardy to -14°F. Ripens in May and June.
LOGAN-BERRY	Thornless! Large to medium fruit, juicy and tart. Berries are light reddish, not darkening when ripe. Excellent for canning, wine, and pies. Very vigorous and bushy, needs trellis for support.
MARION-BERRY	Big dark purple berries with incredible sweet and tart flavor ripen in July. Named for Marion county where it was bred and tested. Thrives in the Pacific Northwest.
TRIPLE CROWN	Thornless! Semi-trailing vines to 15’ yield large, firm, delicious berries. Superior vigor, flavor and productivity (hence the name).