

KIWI INFO

Growing kiwifruit can be an easy, exciting adventure with an abundant, delicious reward. Before embarking on this adventure, one must plan ahead for a sturdy support system and be willing to do annual pruning.

FRUIT: There are two main types of kiwi: *Actinidia arguta*, the hardy kiwi, and *Actinidia deliciosa*, the fuzzy kiwi. In general, both types require two plants of the same species, a male and a female, for pollination. Both plants produce flowers, but only the female will produce fruit. There are self-fertile varieties of each species which yield fewer, often smaller fruits. *A. arguta* has small, smooth skinned fruit and can withstand -25°F. Fruits of the hardy kiwi can ripen on the vine in late fall. *A. deliciosa* has larger, brown, fuzzy fruits and can withstand 10-15°F. (they can survive 0°F with freezing damage). The fruit does not always ripen on the vine in our climate and should be harvested after the first hard frost in November or December ripened in cool storage. There is also a third type, the Arctic Kiwi, *A. kolomikta*, which produces small, smooth skinned fruit and withstands -40°F.

CARE: The first years of establishing a strong root system are critical for success. Three important elements include warm soil, nutrients, and ample water. A site that is full sun with well drained soil is best for *arguta* and *deliciosa* varieties. Kiwi vines are brittle so they should be kept out of strong winds.

Vines should be planted 10 feet apart or trained to grow in opposite directions. The male and female plants can be a maximum of 35 feet apart for pollination. The flowers are pollinated by bees, yet they do not offer nectar for attraction. Therefore, it can help to cut competing flowers around the vines when kiwis are in bloom.

Kiwis require an annual fertilizing and pruning. Organic fertilizers can be added in one helping in the spring, according to package instructions. Pruning is best done in winter, when the vines are dormant. They should not be pruned from mid-February through April because they are actively growing and will bleed sap. Kiwi are trained and pruned in the same manner as grapes. Stop by our Info Desk for support system and detailed pruning instructions.



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VARIETIES EXPECTED FOR 2026

ARCTIC KIWI (<i>A. kolomikta</i>)	
PASHA (male)	Required for pollinizing female vines (up to 4 per male). The most ornamental type, with spectacular pink-white variegation, and smaller stature (15-20'). Best in part shade. Hardy to -40°.
SEPTEMBER SUN (female)	Fragrant white flowers in spring yield oblong grape-size smooth fruit in fall, that can be eaten right off the vine, peel and all. In late spring, leaves are accented with pink and white. Part shade, 15'.
HARDY KIWI (<i>A. arguta</i>)	
ANNA (female)	Originally named 'Ananasnaya', meaning "pineapple-like" in Russian. This cultivar produces extra sweet, spicy, light green fruit. Vigorous, fast growing, hardy to -30°F.
FLOWER-CLOUD (male)	Loaded with sweet smelling flowers for pollinating female hardy kiwis in spring. Grows 25'.
ISSAI	Self fertile! But yields better when a male hardy kiwi is present. Oblong fruit up to 1.75 inches long, smooth, thin skin, sweet flesh. Keeps a week in the refrigerator. Begins producing the second year. Hardy to -25° F.
MALE	Required for pollinizing female vines. Only one male is needed for up to eight females.
FUZZY KIWI (<i>A. deliciosa</i>)	
JENNY	Pretty yellow flowers in spring followed by loads of delicious fruit in late summer-early fall. Somewhat self-fertile, but larger crops with a male. Grows 15-20'.
MALE	Handsome backdrop vine with white flowers in May. Required for pollinizing female fuzzy kiwi varieties to get fruit. One male can pollinize up to 8 females.
SAANICHTON (female)	Round brown fuzzy fruit ripen earlier than most, making it a good choice for Portland. Grows 30-40'!

Questions? Stop by our Information Desk. *We're happy to help!*

