

Kiwi *Planting & Growing Guide*

Cultural Requirements

Native to Eastern Asia. It is an introduced fruit crop to America that is gaining popularity as a backyard fruit. Emerald-green flesh with small, black edible seeds. Plant in zones 4–9. For the self-fertile Issai Hardy Kiwi, fruiting is satisfactory even in mild winters. Kiwi grows best in areas with mild spring and fall weather and high summer temperatures. Early fall frost or late spring frost can be detrimental.

Heeling In

When your Bare Root stock arrives, open the plastic bags immediately. It is best to plant right away, within a week of delivery. If you cannot plant right away, you may “heel in” the plants to protect them and keep them alive (but still dormant) until planting in the permanent spot.

To heel in Bare Root plants *outside*, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench about twice as deep as the roots are long, with one side of the trench sloping at a 45 degree angle. Place the plants, roots side down, so that the trunks/stems are supported by the sloping side. Cover the roots with soil or sand and gently tamp down to avoid air pockets. Periodically check the root area, keeping the soil moist.

To heel in Bare Root plants *inside* due to snow or frozen ground outside, you can store them in a cool place like a root cellar, basement, or garage. It's important choose a place where the temperature stays between *38 and 45 degrees F*. This is important so the plants neither suffer frost damage, nor break dormancy. Place the roots in a container with soil or sand and be sure to keep the root area moist.

Planting & Growing

Kiwi can be grown in a wide range of soils, as long as the soil is well drained. Choose a planting site that is protected from strong winds, as long canes can break easily. Plant 10–15 feet apart. Kiwis need a good deal of water for healthy growth; do not let the vines dry out. Water frequently and deeply in very hot weather.

Fertility

Nitrogen fertilizers should be applied only after the first year. It should be applied in early spring, mixed into the the top 6” of the soil in a broad ring approximatley the diameter of the vine canopy (the “drip line” of the vine). In the long-term, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium, along with sufficient nitrogen, will significantly enhance vine health and fruit quality.

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High quality composts are also recommended as they contain a naturally balanced blend of nutrients, minerals, and pro-biotics. Natural kelp compounds are a great addition to fertilization regimes, whether added to irrigation water or used as a foliar spray between bud coloration and 1” fruit size. Avoid synthetic fertilizers as these can destroy many of the naturally occurring beneficial soil organisms that nurture healthy root systems. Synthetic fertilizers also tend to produce overly lush and unnatural top growth that attracts common insect pests and micro-pathogens. In late summer or fall, do not fertilize and taper off water to avoid encouraging frost-tender new growth.

Pruning

Vines can spread up to 30 feet and need to be supported by trellis or arbor or espalier. Most fruit is produced on new growth that emerges from 1 year old wood. Prune only fully dormant vines. Pruning after the buds swell results in loss of sap and weakened vines. See a basic pruning book for specifics on pruning kiwi, such as *Fruits and Berries for the Home Garden*, by Lewis Hill.

Harvesting

Fruit must be picked hard and then softened at room temperature. Signs of ripeness include the skin color turning from green to full brown or when the first fruits turn soft. Once harvested, Kiwi can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks. If picked too late, fruit will not store well and if picked too early the fruit will be tart.

Dormant Nursery Stock Limited Replacement Guarantee

We guarantee that our product(s) will arrive in good, viable condition. If your dormant bare-root stock (including potted fig and pomegranate), kiwi, grape, artichoke, asparagus, horseradish, rhubarb, or (straw/rasp/black/blue/boysen)berry does not leaf out, contact our Customer Service Department *on or before June 1st* and return the plant for inspection. We will issue you a credit for the price you paid for that plant (excluding freight) provided it does not show damage (rodent, mechanical, etc.) or root rot. This credit is redeemable toward the purchase of any other bare-root item of your choice the following year (Note: we reserve the right to not issue credit for replacement of already replaced items.) **This limited replacement guarantee does not apply to flower bulbs, citrus trees, potato seeds, olive trees, garlic, native plants, or conifer seedlings.**

Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

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