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Passionate for Pets, Plants & People

Blackberries

Botanical name: *Rubus fruticosus*

Plant type: [Fruit](#)

USDA Hardiness Zones: [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#)

Sun exposure: [Full Sun](#)

Soil type: [Sandy](#)

Soil pH: [Acidic](#)

Blackberries are a very easy fruit to grow. However tempting, do not grow plants unless you are certain they are virus-free since viruses are a widespread problem with blackberries. Select high quality plants from a nursery with a good reputation. Blackberries are also called dewberries. Boysenberries, loganberries and marionberries are blackberry varieties and not different species altogether.

Planting

- Make sure you plant your blackberries far away from wild blackberries that may carry viruses.
- The ground should be well fertilized and trellises for trailing varieties should be constructed.
- Blackberries and hybrids are all self-fertile.
- Planting may be done in late fall, however, it should be delayed until early spring in very cold areas as it could kill some hybrids.
- Plant shallowly: about one inch deeper than they were grown in the nursery.
- Space upright varieties 3 feet apart and trailing varieties 5 to 8 feet apart. Space rows about 8 feet apart.

Care

- Mulching is important throughout the season to conserve moisture and suffocate weeds. Keep a thick layer of mulch surrounding plants at all times.
- Water one inch per week.
- The roots send up an abundant amount of shoots, called canes. Keep order by pruning away the majority of them so that the survivors can produce lots of berries.

Harvest/Storage

- Pick fruits regularly keeping the central plug within the fruit (unlike raspberries)
- Although fresh fruit is always best, blackberries can be stored by canning, preserving or freezing.