

# blackmoor

Blackmoor

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Dear Customer,

Thank you for ordering from Blackmoor Nurseries. We trust you will be pleased with your plants and by following our growing guide below we hope you have many years of success with them. Our plants have been professionally grown on our Nursery with the correct attention to nutrients, and pest and disease control. They are despatched in good condition ready to establish and thrive in your garden for many years to come.

Please unpack and inspect your plants immediately on arrival.

## CARE GUIDE FOR KIWI'S

Kiwis are vigorous, twining, deciduous vines, which are easy to grow and are capable of reaching 9 m (30ft) tall with nutritious and delicious fruit. They need careful training and annual pruning in order to gain the best fruiting potential and should therefore be grown either on a pergola/arbor or on a trellis framework. Fertiliser and water are the remaining ingredients needed to begin enjoying this exciting fruit.

**Site Selection:** Kiwi prefer a location with full sun therefore a south or west facing wall is best but they can be grown in more open sites in milder areas. **Avoid frost pockets.** Allow a 4 metre (15 ft spacing).

Kiwis grow well in both light and heavy soils, so long as they are well drained. On poorly drained soils, plant on sloping ground or make a raised bed so that excess water will drain away from the trunk. Fertile soil, high in organic matter is ideal for Kiwis. Applying well-rotted manure or compost will help build up organic matter and fertility.

**Planting:** When ready to plant, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the roots without crowding. A general purpose compost can be mixed with the soil in the planting hole. Potted plants should be planted carefully so as not to disturb the roots. Root bound potted plants however should have their roots gently teased out and spread to the sides of the hole. Do not let the roots dry out. Plant at the same level as they were grown in their container. After planting, soak the planting area to remove air from around the roots.

*Young shoots and leaves can be injured by light frosts. During the first spring, protection from late frost is important and is helpful in future years. Cover the plant when frost threatens.*

**Feeding And Watering:** Kiwis should be given a balanced fertiliser high in nitrogen every spring. Spread the fertiliser across the planting area to ensure that you feed the Kiwi's surface root system. Apply fertiliser before summer to avoid frost tender wood in the autumn.

As Kiwis are shallow rooted plants they need regular watering during the summer. Deep watering once or twice a week should be sufficient during periods of dry weather and avoid over watering. Reduce watering in the autumn to help harden plants for winter. Apply a mulch to a 1 metre (2-3 ft) circle around the plants with straw, compost or other organic materials will help conserve moisture and keep down weeds.

**Pruning And Training:** Kiwis flower and bear fruit on wood that has grown from the previous season's growth, three to four years after planting.

Select a vigorous shoot to grow rapidly to the top of the support. Gently tie this shoot to a stout post as it grows, and later remove other less vigorous shoots. When the vine reaches the top of the support, tip it back, and allow two buds near the top to grow and train them along the support wires or beams. Tie them loosely with heavy string or plastic tape. These cordons form the basic structure of your plant.

By the end of the second season, you should have a good framework established. Before spring, cut back the two cordons to 8-20 buds. These buds should produce your first fruiting spurs. Train the end bud to extend the cordon further along the trellis and prune it back the following spring to 8-10 buds to produce more fruiting spurs. Once the cordons have reached the limits of the support regular pruning can begin.

Dormant pruning of vines begins by heading back last years fruiting canes to 10-12 buds past the last fruit. After several years, small weak wood should be heavily pruned to force new vigorous canes. Twisted, tangled and broken canes should be removed as well as those crossing from one side of the plant to the other. Growth hanging to the ground should be pruned out or tied in/up. Excess fruiting spurs should be removed so that 8-12 inches separates each cane.

*Avoid pruning in early spring after the plant has begun growth, excessive bleeding can occur and damage to the plant may result.*

*This guide is for general information purposes only as site and soil conditions and requirements vary greatly.*