

How to grow black*berries*

By Keenan Chandler



Disclaimer

Did you know: blackberries are not true berries! They are aggregate fruits made up of many tiny drupelets

Introduction

Before you start planting your blackberry bush, there are a few things your going to need to know, and this booklet has it all, read on to find out how to raise your blackberry bush. First, your going to want to find out what kind of blackberry bush you want to plant. Here are a few:

- Alfred, Eldorado, Snyder, Brainard, Early harvest, Nanticoken, and Mcdonald.

If you plant trailing blackberries, your going to have to provide support and constant pruning. If you plant erect, then they need trellising.

Prep before planting

Now that you've selected your species of blackberry, you must now decide where to plant it. Once you've picked a spot, read the following below to make sure your spot meets the necessities required to plant the bush.

- The ground must have well-draining soil, no clay, rock, or sand
- Make sure your plant isn't in too much shade, blackberries need sun, and if you plant them in too much shade, then they won't produce any fruit.
- Keep your blackberries away from other plants like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, potatoes, and strawberries. These bring bugs harmful to blackberry plants.

Planting

Now, it's time for planting! First, you're going to want to plant your bush as early in the spring as you can. Remove any rocks, sticks, weeds, or insects from the planting% area. After you have planted the bush, water it and trim it back about 6 in. If you take good care of the blackberry bush, it should produce fruit the following year, and last from 15-20 years if nurtured properly.

Pollination requirements

Now for the pollination. You probably think that you don't need to do anything about this, and you're right, because the bush does mostly everything itself. What I mean by this is the bush requires bees to help carry pollen. This helps the plant produce fruit better, with the exception of self-fruitful plants produce their own pollen.

Pest control

Now, you most likely don't want insects and bugs eating your crops, so here are a few tips and tricks to help you get rid of pests.....hopefully for good!

- Put a cage or a net on your blackberry bush to prevent birds from eating your berries.
- hand -remove any bad bugs, such as these;



A-B



C-D



E-F



G

KEY: A= Red-necked cane borer B= Rose chafer beetle C= Japanese beetle D= Raspberry crown beetle E= Two-spotted spider-mite F= Stink bug G= Aphid 5

ready to use or eat them, because water makes them prone to spoiling. Harvest every 2-3 days. Spray plant with water to get bugs off

- Continue to prune, weed and water.

Pruning

Some people may see a farmer pruning his trees or bushes, and think; OH MY GOSH, HE'S KILLING THE TREE!!! But he's not. In fact, he's most likely pruning. If not, then i guess he's killing the tree.

Pruning is another way of taking care of the tree. While pruning, cut off dead branches, diseased ones, and old canes to make room for new ones. Prune every spring to prevent them from tangling. This helps to bear fruit better.

Harvesting

Now, it's time for harvesting all that hard work you put into your blackberries! When you go to pick your blackberries, bring with you a small bowl or container. Once you start picking your blackberries, look for blackberries that are big and black, twist gently, if it comes off (relatively) easy, then it is most likely ripe. After you have harvested, put them in a bowl in the refrigerator.* Do not wash the berries until you are ready to use them,

*Last up to 4-5 days in the refrigerator.

Classification

- Scientific name: Rubus
- Higher classification: Rose family
- Order: Rosales
- Rank: Genus

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