KIWI

Planting

Kiwis prefer fertile soil with good drainage. They need to be in an area where they receive at least 6 hours of sun, preferably sheltered from extreme cold and wind. They can be planted anytime but spring or early summer are best. Plant them where they have room to grow; at least 8 ft apart.

Care and Feeding

Kiwis are heavy feeders; apply fertilizer in spring as the leaves start to emerge and again in summer. Apply a 2” layer of compost around the base and water deeply during the hottest part of summer.

Pruning and Training

Kiwis can be trained horizontally like grapes or grown over an arch or trellis structure. Make sure the structure is sturdy; vines can be large and heavy especially when loaded with fruit. Kiwis flower and fruit on one year or older stems. Prune back tips and thin out branches in early spring, leaving some of the oldest branches.

Kiwi is a dioecious plant – it has separate male and female plants (with the exception of some self-fertile cultivars) so planting of male vines is essential for pollination and crop production. In general plant the same species of male and female plants. One male can pollinate 6 or more female plants. Self-fertile cultivars do not require a male pollinator but production will increase if planting a male plant also.

KIWI VARIETIES

Fuzzy Kiwi – These are the grocery store kiwis. They ripen late summer to early fall.

Hayward – The most popular fuzzy kiwi. Excellent shape, size and flavor. Late producer.

Saanichton – Not as well-known as Hayward kiwi, but noted for its superior cold tolerance.

Hardy Kiwi - Smooth skinned kiwis that are smaller than fuzzy ones but just as delicious and with higher Vitamin C content. Can be eaten “skin and all”.

Anna - The most popular commercial hardy kiwi. Fruit is large, up to 1½”. Excellent quality fruit. Also, interesting dried.

Ken’s Red - Abundant producer of large red skinned and red fleshed fruit. Sweet and tasty. Very vigorous vines.

Issai – Self–fertile variety with excellent quality fruit. More compact habit than other hardy kiwi and more productive if planted with a hardy male.

Kolomikta Kiwi - The hardiest of kiwi. (to –40 degrees).

Arctic Beauty – Smooth skinned small to medium sized fruit with excellent flavor and aroma if left to ripen on the vine. Fruit has high amounts of Vitamin C. (10 times more than citrus) Ripens August. Male plants have beautiful green, white and pink variegated foliage. Foliage colors best in slightly shaded area such as a north facing wall. Must plant both male and female of the Kolomikta variety to produce its nutritious fruit.