

Hardy Kiwi

Actinidia arguta



General Information

- Edible fruit: can be eaten raw
- Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade
- Water needs: Medium (see below)
- Cold Tolerance: tolerates cold to about -25° F but it is susceptible to damage from late frosts
- Days to harvest: they need a long growing season, about 150 frost-free days (will take at least 3 years and up to 7 to start bearing fruit)
- Harvest season: September-October: the Cordifolia cultivar ripens first in early September while the Anna (Ananasnaja) may need to wait until late October/early November before it sweetens to its best. Just like the kiwifruit, fruits can be picked at the mature-ripe stage and allowed to ripen off of the vine.

Planting Guide

- Best to start from a seedling/small plant; space plants 8 to 15 feet apart
- Location: It will tolerate some shade but prefer a sunny location where they can grow across some type of trellising system. They should have some protection from strong winds
- Soil: Hardy kiwi prefer well-drained, somewhat acid (pH 5 – 6.5) soils
- Time of the year to plant: spring, after all danger of frost has passed
- Initial watering: water sufficiently to keep the soil moist.
- If growing kiwi vines for their fruit, be sure to plant both male and female plants for pollination, or choose a self-pollinating plant. You need at least one male for every eight female plants.

Care Guide

- Irrigation: Hardy kiwi plants need large volumes of water during the entire growing season but must also be in well-drained soils. Should be watered regularly in the heat of the summer.
- Pruning: Needs frequent pruning, including an annual winter pruning of each stem back to 8-10 buds and an annual summer pruning of excessively long shoots.
- Fertilizer: use a high nitrogen fertilizer during the growing season. A light layer of compost over the root area provides all the nutrients necessary.

Sources:

- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=r320>
- <https://crfg.org/wiki/fruit/hardy-kiwifruit/>
- [How to Grow: Hardy Kiwi](#)