

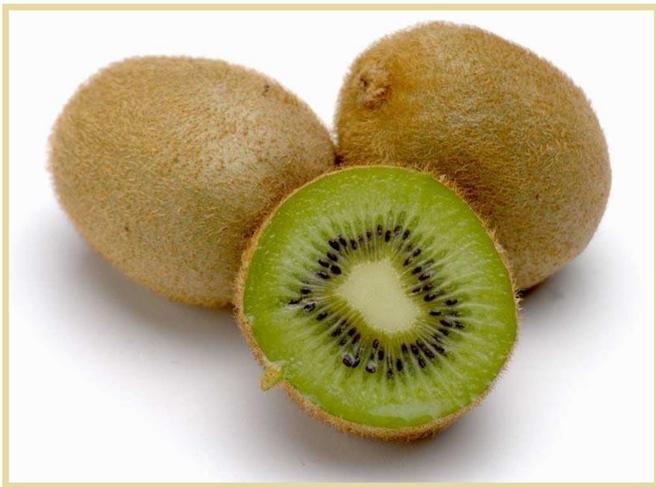
KIWIFRUIT CATALOGUE

Actinidia deliciosa

Actinidia deliciosa is a woody vine native to Southern China. The plants were originally known by the common name Chinese gooseberry but the fruit was renamed for export purposes in the 1950's to Kiwifruit.

The fruit of this vine has a delicate flavour and can be eaten on its own as fresh fruit, or maybe combined with other fruits, preserved or canned.

Kiwifruit are dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers are carried on separate plants. Therefore, it is necessary to plant both male and female plants in order to produce fruit.



CLIMATE

The basic climate requirements for growing kiwifruit are a temperate climate, either a good summer rainfall or copious amounts of irrigation water and the absence of late frosts but with some winter frosts, to produce the necessary chilling requirements to enhance bud burst in Spring.

Kiwifruit prefer open sandy or humus soils, well drained and with plants of nitrogenous manure as the vines are very vigorous. During the hot summer months vines need a plentiful supply of water, however poorly drained soils can induce Phytophthora (root rotting fungi), therefore avoid water-logging soils.

CONTAINER SIZE

Our kiwifruit are grown in 150mm plastic pots that are coloured to identify male (blue pots) and female (pink pots) plants.

GROWING MEDIA

At Sunraysia Nurseries we take great care with our plants by growing them in pasteurised (aerated-steam treated) media to prevent Phytophthora contamination.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

The best time to plant is between July and August whilst the plants are in deep dormancy or after frosts, if the plants are grown in containers.

WIND BREAKS

Kiwifruit are very sensitive to wind damage. Young shoots can be burnt or blown off and fruit can be blemished by winds. Protection of vines from windblast is essential for satisfactory fruit production.

TRAINING & TRELISING

Kiwifruit vines require substantial support similar to grapevines but stronger and larger as Kiwifruit are more vigorous than grapevines.

The plants are planted 5 metres apart in rows 3 metres apart. The most protective trellis is a pergola, built of substantial materials at a height of two metres. However, a 'T' trellis constructed of posts 1.8 metres out of the ground with wood on angle iron 'T' bars 1.5 metres wide and 3 high tensile wires supported by the 'T' bars is also most satisfactory.

PRUNING

Pruning helps to maintain a healthy balance between fruit production, fruit quality and foliage growth. A strong shoot on the young plant is selected to be trained to the fruiting wire or pergola. Remove all other shoots as they develop and repeatedly tie the leader shoot to a support to enable it to reach the fruiting wires. Four leaders are allowed to develop to left and right at the fruiting wire.

The first crop is formed on these arms and later crops on laterals from these arms. Spur prune all laterals to one or two buds during winter. Refurnish fruiting arms regularly by removing one third of old fruiting arms and rolling down a new cane to replace it.

Kiwifruit will produce fruit after 4 years, but full production is not reached before 9 years of growth and they will continue producing for anything up to 40 years.

VARIETIES

MALE VINES

MATUA: Pollinates all varieties although its peak flowering period is too early for the popular fruiting variety – Hayward.

TOMURI: Pollinates later than Matua, therefore for Hayward we recommend Tomuri as a pollinator. For effective pollination 1 male to 9 females is recommended, that is every third plant in every third row must be a male plant. High bee populations are essential, as the female flower does not contain nectar; consequently, bees do not visit the flowers over long distances. It is recommended that beehives be brought into the vineyard at a very high rate of three or four hives per acre.

M56: Pollinates the new improved selection Kramer.

FEMALE VINES

ABBOT: Excellent warm weather variety, early flowering. Fruit medium sized oblong shape. Cross pollinator is Matua.

BRUNO: Later flowering than Abbot. Fruit is elongated; large and darker brown than other cultivars. Cross pollinator is Matua.

HAYWARD: Very late flowering. Fruit is large and broadly oval. Slightly less vigorous than other cultivars, therefore can be planted closer in the vine row. This variety has a superior keeping quality and flavour than most other varieties. Cross pollinator is Tomuri.

KRAMER: A new improved selection of Hayward from New Zealand. We recommend this selection in place of Hayward. Cross pollinator is M56.