



Sierra View Nursery Inc.

Hardy Kiwi and Fuzzy Kiwi Care

The Fuzzy Kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*), is a very vigorous vine hardy to about 0 degrees F. The Hardy Kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*) is hardy to about -25 degrees F. While the fruit is smaller than that of the Fuzzy Kiwi, it is sweeter and with its smooth skin it can be eaten like a grape.

Planting

Kiwi vines need a sunny spot to produce the best growth and fruit. Plant in a protected area of the garden to avoid wind damage. These slow growing vines need well-drained soil and very sturdy supports. Erect a tall heavy-duty trellis system that can support the vines that can grow 15 feet wide and 20 feet long and produce up to 100 pounds of fruit.

To get a good crop from kiwi, you'll need to plant male and female plants. The females produce the fruit. (Best ratio: one male plant for every six female plants.) Plant the vines 10 to 15 feet apart. When planting, you may need to trim the roots if too long. Plant vines just deep enough to cover the roots well with soil. Water well at time of planting to remove air pockets.

Watering

Be sure to keep soil moist while allowing the top 2 – 3 inches of soil to dry out between waterings. Do not over water kiwi plants as they are prone to root rot.

Pruning and Training

Start training the flexible vines up a support during the first year of planting. Kiwis typically begin bearing fruit 3 to 5 years after planting and produce flowers and fruits on old wood. Prune the lateral growth (if not flowering) 2 to 3 times during the growing season. Regularly remove water sprouts (vigorous shoots originating from older wood) and shoots from the trunk. Prune female vines during the winter months when the plant is dormant. Prune male vines in early summer after bloom.

Fertilizing

Fertilizer is not needed during the first year of growth. After that, fertilize with a well-balanced fertilizer such as, *Lily Miller All Purpose 10-10-10* or *Down-To-Earth All Purpose* increasing the amount given as the plant grows larger.