Kiwi

Planting & Growing Guide

Cultural Requirements Native to Eastern Asia. It is an introduced fruit crop to America that is gaining popularity as a backyard fruit. Emerald-green flesh with small, black edible seeds. Hardy Kiwis (*Actinidia arguta*) grow well in zones 4-9 and have smooth edible skin. Tender kiwis (*Actinidia deliciosa*) are the traditional fuzzy fruits and grow well in zones 8-9. For the self-fertile Issai Hardy Kiwi, fruiting is satisfactory even in mild winters. The tender kiwis require both a male and female vine to bear fruit. Kiwis will start to fruit anywhere from one to six years after planting depending on how well they are cared for. Kiwi grows best in areas with mild spring and fall weather and high summer temperatures. Early fall frost or late spring frost can be detrimental.

Heeling In When you receive your kiwis they will be boxed securely. If you are not ready to plant or if the temperatures are too cold, immediately place them in a sheltered location, safe from frost. A root cellar, basement, or garage works well. It's important choose a place where the temperature stays between 38 and 45 degrees F. This is important so the roots neither freeze, nor warm enough to break dormancy. It is essential that the young tree roots have plenty of time to become established before the tree begins its spring limb growth and bud break.

Planting & Growing Kiwi can be grown in a wide range of soils, as long as the soil is well drained. Choose a planting site that is protected from strong winds. Plant 10–15 feet apart. Kiwis need a good deal of water for healthy growth; do not let the vines dry out. Water frequently and deeply in very hot weather.

Check out our Instructional Video:
HOW TO GROW KIWI
GrowOrganic.com/video

Fertility Nitrogen fertilizers should be applied only after the first year. Apply in early spring, mixed into the the top 6" of the soil in a broad ring approximately the diameter of the vine canopy (the "drip line" of the vine). In the long-term, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium, along with sufficient nitrogen, will significantly enhance vine health and fruit quality. High quality composts are also recommended as they contain a naturally balanced blend of nutrients, minerals, and pro-biotics. Natural kelp (PVFS Liquid Kelp, F1330 or Maxicrop) compounds are a great addition to fertilization regimes, whether added to irrigation water or used as a foliar spray between bud coloration and 1" fruit size. Avoid synthetic fertilizers as these can destroy many of the naturally occurring beneficial soil organisms that nurture healthy root systems. Synthetic fertilizers also tend to produce overly lush and unnatural top growth that attracts common insect pests and micro-pathogens. In late summer or fall, do not fertilize and taper off water to avoid encouraging frost-tender new growth.

Perishable Items (3-Day Return Policy):

We guarantee the perishable items we sell to be in good, viable condition when we sell them. Perishable items include, but are not limited to, garlic bulbs, flower bulbs, seed potatoes, onion sets & transplants, bare-root trees, vegetable crowns… etc. If your perishable item arrives in substandard condition, take photographs and please contact us within 3 days of the purchase date (or delivery date) and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price (excluding shipping costs), or a replacement. Accordingly, we urge you to open any boxes marked as "Perishable" immediately upon receiving them and inspect the shipment thoroughly (do not crack open heads of garlic, we do not accept claims on cracked garlic). Because some perishable items can deteriorate very quickly, we cannot accept any claims beyond the 3-day time frame as it becomes too difficult to determine if these items were delivered in substandard condition, or if they turned into such substandard condition because of having been improperly cared for or stored once delivered.

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Pruning Vines can spread up to 30 feet and need to be supported by trellis or arbor or espalier. Most fruit is produced on new growth that emerges from 1 year old wood. Prune only fully dormant vines. Pruning after the buds swell results in loss of sap and weakened vines.

Harvesting Fruit must be picked hard and then softened at room temperature. Signs of ripeness include the skin color turning from green to full brown or when the first fruits turn soft. Once harvested, Kiwi can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks. If picked too late, fruit will not store well and if picked too early the fruit will be tart.

Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation…etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

Limited Guarantee for Dormant Bare Root & Potted Trees

Olives are shipped leafed out, not dormant, and accordingly are not covered by our Dormant Tree Limited Guarantee. Our potted plants, almond, fig, goji, kiwi and pomegranate are shipped dormant and therefore are covered by this limited guarantee.

Limited Dormant Trees & Plant Guarantee (When Planted in the Ground by April 1st)

Claim Deadline is June 1st (with the exception of persimmon trees, which have a deadline of June 15th).
Claims placed after June 1st (or June 15th for persimmon trees) will be denied.

Please note: Our trees will come to you topped off at approximately 3 ft. in height to put the tree's stored energy into root development vs. foliage production.

What We Guarantee

Our only guarantee is that your dormant tree/plant will arrive in good, viable condition and will leaf out by May 15th (historically 98% of our trees do). This guarantee is only available to customers who purchased their tree/plant directly from us, and who planted their tree/plant in the ground by April 1st (or temporarily in a pot if the ground in their zone was still frozen solid).

What We Cannot Guarantee

We cannot guarantee that your tree/plant remains alive & healthy, or bears fruit, as there are too many variables beyond our control in order to do so (i.e. soil preparation, planting, fertilization, weed & pest control, adequate irrigation and/or drainage, chill hours, compatible hardiness for your zone, proper choice of pollinator, etc).

How to Request a Credit

If your tree/plant does not leaf out by May 15th, please contact us as soon as possible (but no later than June 1st, or June 15th for persimmon trees) and we will issue you a credit (not a refund) for the purchase price of your tree/plant (excluding shipping).*
(*) We reserve the right to not issue credit for items already replaced. We also reserve the right to require photographic evidence of the condition of your tree/plant and/or a scratch test. The scratch test consists of checking for green under the bark a few inches over the graft (please watch our video titled Bare Root (Dormant) Warranty for more information on this simple procedure). If the scratch test reveals a brown cambium, the tree/plant is dead or dying.

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