

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Easy (can be vigorous)
TYPE Perennial cane, from canes/cuttings
MATURITY 1–2 years to first crop



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



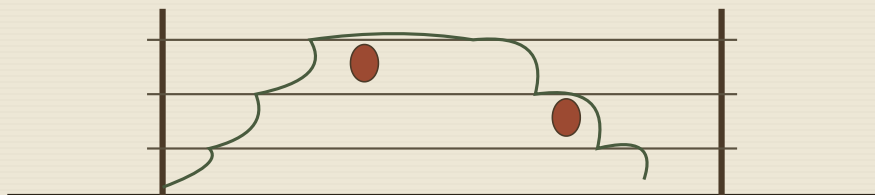
SPACING
1–2m on wires



DEPTH
as per cane

01 Choose a thornless variety

Modern thornless varieties make blackberry a far more manageable homestead crop than wild forms — trained on wires, it's vigorous but not unruly.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant canes against a wire support system.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

04 Problems

- **Vigorous spread** — the main management task; prune and contain regularly.
- **Birds** — net as fruit ripens.
- **Cane blight** — remove and destroy affected canes.
- **Fruit fly** — pick promptly once ripe.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Garlic

Tansy

AVOID NEARBY

Raspberry (shared disease risk)

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial cane bed.

03 Growing care

- Train new canes onto wires as they grow.
- Water regularly through fruit development.
- Prune out spent canes after fruiting.
- Contain the planting — even thornless varieties spread via tip-rooting canes.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fully black, plump, comes away easily.
METHOD	Pick gently by hand.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge a couple of days; freezes very well.