

Kiwi Berry

Actinidia arguta · Kiwifruit family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial vine
MATURITY 3–5 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–6.5



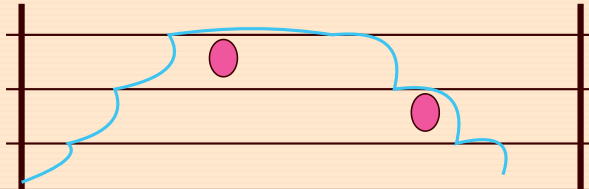
SPACING
1–2m apart on a trellis



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Smooth-skinned, eaten whole

Unlike fuzzy-skinned kiwifruit, kiwi berries have smooth, hairless skin and are eaten whole, no peeling needed. Most varieties still need a male vine nearby for pollination, though some (like Issai) are partly self-fertile.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant against a strong, permanent pergola-style structure — vines get heavy.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant, or from a potted vine in spring.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **No fruit produced** — usually a missing male pollinator vine, unless growing a self-fertile variety.
- **Wind damage to young growth** — shelter young vines.
- **Fruit fly** — less commonly affected than other fruit.
- **Root rot** — from poor drainage; ensure it's not sitting wet.

03 Growing care

- Plant a male vine nearby unless growing a self-fertile variety like Issai.
- Keep roots consistently moist — kiwi berries have shallow roots that dry out fast.
- Prune hard each winter — vines are extremely vigorous.
- Provide a strong permanent structure — mature vines get heavy.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit has coloured up and gives slightly when gently squeezed.
METHOD	Twist gently from the vine; eaten whole, skin and all, no peeling needed.
CURING	Ripens further at room temperature if picked slightly firm.
STORAGE	Fridge, up to 2 weeks once ripe.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying grapes and similar fruit) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Comfrey	Weak structures	Not applicable — long-lived perennial vine.