

Mulberry

Morus spp. · Mulberry family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Deciduous perennial tree

MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate,
drought-tolerant
once established



SOIL PH
5.5–7.0



SPACING
4–8m depending
on variety



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Fast, generous, and forgiving

Mulberry is one of the easiest and most productive fruit trees for a homestead — fast-growing, tolerant of a wide range of conditions, and dwarf varieties suit smaller spaces well.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a potted tree; bare-root also available in winter.
SOIL	Tolerant of a wide range, even poor soil.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant, or any time from a pot.

04 Problems

- **Birds** — very attracted to the fruit; net if you want a full harvest for yourself.
- **Fruit staining** — plant away from paving or washing lines, as fallen fruit stains badly.
- **Few pest issues** — a generally trouble-free tree.
- **Vigorous growth** — prune to control size if space is limited.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Comfrey

AVOID NEARBY

Near paving or washing lines

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly while young, then ease off once established.
- Prune to control size — mulberry can grow large if left unchecked.
- Net if birds are taking most of the crop.
- Feed lightly once a year.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit is fully dark and slightly soft — it doesn't ripen further once picked.
METHOD	Shake gently over a sheet, or pick individually.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge only a day or two; freezes well.