

SKY NURSERY

BLACKBERRY VARIETIES 2012 \$12.99/EACH

Blackberries will grow in almost any type of soil. They do require a steady moisture supply, especially in light or sandy soils. They do not require a high fertility level. In most garden soils little or no fertilizer is necessary to maintain vigorous growth. If fertilizer is needed, apply a flower or vegetable fertilizer around bloom time. Keep your blackberry planting clean to eliminate weed competition and sucker growth. However, do not cultivate deeply around thornless varieties; if the feeder roots are damaged, they will send up thorny suckers that will need to be pruned out.

The crowns of blackberry plants are perennial: new canes arise from them every year. The canes themselves are biennial; each one lives for two years. During the first year, they grow and send out laterals (side branches). The second year, small branches grow from buds on the one-year-old canes. Fruit is borne on these side branches. After fruiting, the entire cane dies, and new canes sprout next year from the root. All of the blackberries that Sky carries are fully hardy in the Puget Sound region.

Trailing varieties should be planted 8 to 12 feet apart. They do best trained to a 2-wire trellis, one wire 5 feet above the ground, the lower one about 3 feet above the ground. Prune blackberries in late summer after they have fruited. Completely remove the old canes that have fruited. Thin the new canes, leaving 6 to 12 of the sturdiest to bear next season's fruit. **DO NOT PRUNE THE TIPS OF THE CANES ON TRAILING VARIETIES.**

REGULAR BLACKBERRY VARIETIES (HAVE THORNS)

BOYSENBERRY: Very large, non shiny, dark maroon berries. Soft, very juicy flesh. Distinctive rich tangy flavor and very aromatic. Excellent for fresh eating, freezing, jams, pastries, juice, syrup, and wine. Ripens in July. Hardy to -10° F. Vigorous trailing vines.

KOTATA: Fruit is similar to Marionberry but firmer. Long, purplish-black fruit. Excellent flavor, good for desserts and jam. Ripens in July; heavy crops. Good disease resistance.

MARIONBERRY: Large, bright-black, with excellent flavor. Recommended for fresh eating, jams, preserves, and desserts. Vigorous thorny plant, strong trailing canes, and thrifty cane production. Ripens in July and early August.

TAYBERRY: Introduced by the Scottish Horticultural Research Institute, this cross between a blackberry and a raspberry can be picked from early July through mid August. The berries are large, conical, and reddish purple with an excellent aroma and flavor—blackberry with a hint of raspberry. You can pick them slightly underripe for pies, preserves, and other cooked uses, or let them ripen fully for fresh eating. The canes are long and moderately vigorous.

SKY NURSERY
BLACKBERRY VARIETIES 2012 \$12.99/EACH

THORNLESS BERRY VARIETIES

BLACK SATIN: Large, firm, glossy black fruit. Excellent sweet flavor, good for fresh eating and in jams. Excellent in Pacific Northwest; heavy yields. Ripens in July. Very cold hardy.

LOCH NESS: Richly tart, large, shiny black fruit. Excellent flavor, good for fresh eating and in desserts. Gourmet quality blackberry. Semi-erect canes can be grown with little support. Ripens August and September.

LOGANBERRY: Large fruit with a unique flavor. Thought to be a wild cross between a blackberry and a red raspberry. Ripens in August and September. Trailing habit.

TRIPLE CROWN: Very large, sweet, shiny berry. Great fresh or in jelly, toppings, or juice. Begins ripening in early August, can continue until frost. Very hardy and vigorous. Semi-erect canes. Very high yields—as much as 30 pounds per established plant. Ripens late July.