



# Actinidia 'Fuzzy Kiwi'

A new fruit for Southern growers. Kiwi fruit brings a pretty price in the supermarket, and it is easy to understand why, when it boasts the flavors of pineapple, strawberry and melon.

## Plant Highlights

- Low Chill
- Their vigorous spring growth is a spectacular sight
- Fuzzy kiwi vines are considered to be the easiest kiwi varieties to grow .

The kiwi seeks new ground and things to grasp. If left unchecked and unpruned, your front porch would disappear beneath its boughs.

### Tips and what you should know about growing kiwis:

- Kiwis are dioecious; there is a female plant and a male plant. You need both for fruit production
- The vines are extremely vigorous.
- Minimal pest or disease problems
- Ripen best off the vine, pick anytime before a freeze
- Select a sunny site with good drainage
- Build a trellis system for best results, a very strong trellis
- Fruit grows on current season's wood.



**Pollination:** All need a male and female to set fruit. One male can pollinize up to 8 females. The fuzzy kiwi male is the best pollinator and can pollinate the fuzzy or arguta female.

**Hardiness:** Chinensis and Deliciousa Fuzzy Kiwis USDA Zones 7-9.

**Sun or shade:** Most kiwis need a sunny location with wind protection.

**Spacing:** 15 to 20 ft.

**Harvest and storage:** Most kiwis ripen in October and are picked after the first frost. Picked while still hard, they can be stored for months in a refrigerator or cool dry area and put on the counter to soften.

**Life expectancy:** 50 years or more

**Years to first fruit:** 2-5

**Pests:** No significant problems. Cats find the foliage addictive, like catnip.

**Yield:** Mature fuzzy female vines produce 25 pounds or more.

**Soil:** Need well drained soil.

**Cultural requirements:** Kiwis are vigorous vines. They cannot support their own weight and will spread up to 30 feet. They require strong support such as a trellis, arbor, or fence. Wrapping the trunk from ground level, up about four feet, or planting it on the shaded side of its support, will protect the trunk from splitting after spring or fall cold snaps.

**Pruning:** When planted, the vines should be pruned back to 4 or 5 buds. From these a main stem should be selected and staked to grow to the top of the arbor or trellis, usually 6-7' high.