

OUT OF THE BOX

BLACKBERRIES

Your plants have been shipped to you in a dormant, bare-root state (no foliage). Once planted they may take 4-6 weeks, depending upon the weather and other environmental conditions, to wake up and start growing. You can be assured they will begin setting roots and start growing very soon after planting. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care, and be patient.

We urge you to plant your new arrivals as soon as possible. In the event that planting must be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, bare-root plants should be left in the poly bags and kept in a cool, dark location. A refrigerator is ideal, but an unheated garage or a basement is also acceptable. Roots need to be kept moist (but not soaking wet). A spray bottle can be used to mist roots.

Triple Crown - an early-bearing semi-erect variety that is self-pollinating and yields up to 30 pounds of berries per plant at maturity.

Black Satin - a mid season-bearing erect variety that is especially sweet and the hardiest of all blackberries.

**Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.*

Thank you for your order

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

CAUTION: Not all plant material is edible.

Though most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances which can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food products should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control center at once and advise them of the plant ingested.

Keep out of reach of children.

BLACKBERRIES



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

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| LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE | Full to part sun. |
| USDA HARDINESS ZONES | 5 to 9. |
| PLANT TYPE | Perennial. |
| PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND | 3 to 4 feet apart. |
| CONTAINER SIZE | One plant per 16-inch or larger container. |
| MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD | 6 to 10 feet tall with a 3 to 4 foot spread. |
| BLOOM TIME | Late spring. |

SOIL PREPARATION

Although these plants will perform well in average garden soils of all types, we recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.csrees.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). These tests can determine if the soil needs any amendments to enhance your plants' growth and performance. See below for our recommended practice to improve your soil without any additional testing:

- 1 Spade or till the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches.
- 2 To provide nutrients and improve drainage, add organic matter to your soil by mixing in a 2 to 4-inch layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost, shredded leaves, and/or peat moss.
- 3 After active growth begins, periodically feed with a water soluble fertilizer. Plants in containers need more frequent watering and feeding, especially when in active growth and bloom.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the bare root divisions received. Place a mound of soil in the bottom of each hole and carefully spread the dormant bare roots out in their planting holes. Cover completely with 1 to 2 inches of soil, gently tamping the soil. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

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| WATERING | Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plant's first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that may wet the top of the soil only. |
| | Due to individual plant needs, geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought and extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day. |
| | Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant. |
| FEEDING | Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring. |
| | Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth. |
| WEEDING | Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with all plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them. |

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

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| PRUNING | Blackberries send up new shoots (primocanes) from the crown or buds formed on the roots. These canes produce no flowers or fruit the first year. The second year these canes are called floricanes. These are the canes that flower and produce fruit. |
| | Floricanes gradually die after fruiting. Old floricanes should be removed and burned immediately after fruiting. |
| | New primocanes should be pruned back in the summer to a height of 3 to 4 feet, forcing the plants to grow side branches which will bear next year's crop. |
| WINTERIZING | You will need to top (trim back) the primocanes throughout the season since the canes emerge at different times. Topping the primocanes in the summer promotes self-supporting plants and encourages lateral branch development which increases fruit production the following year. |
| | Select four to six canes per linear foot of row for next year's fruiting wood. Cut lateral (side branches) branches back to about 12 inches before growth starts in the spring. |
| | A thorough watering in late fall will greatly enhance the plant's cold tolerance. |
| WINTERIZING | The time to protect your plants in the garden is after the ground has frozen. At that time, apply a winter mulch of evergreen boughs, straws or leaves to prevent lifting of the plant's roots during alternating periods of freezing and thawing. |
| | For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area, be sure to check the soil moisture every 7-10 days and water as needed. |
| WINTERIZING | In spring, remove the mulch from in-ground plantings. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance. |