Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

A delicious selection producing juicy crops through midsummer; blackberries are quite shrubby looking and require careful placement in the landscape and specific pruning regimens; fruit is perfect for eating fresh, baking, preserves and tea



Blackberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Blackberry is a medium-sized shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces large clusters of black oval berries which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves
- Tea



Blackberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Features & Attributes

Blackberry has rich green deciduous foliage on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The fuzzy oval compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. It features an abundance of magnificent black berries in mid summer.

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This is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage. This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep. Each spring, cut back all dead and two-year old canes to the ground, leaving only last year's growth standing. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Disease
- Spiny

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Blackberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping



Blackberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Blackberry will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This shrub may not always play well with others; as such, it is best grown in its own designated garden space or isolated area of an edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.