

Blackberry Growing & Care Guide for Boise and Treasure Valley Gardens

*A local gardening guide from Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses
Boise, Idaho*

Blackberries are easy-to-grow fruiting plants that thrive in Boise and Treasure Valley gardens. With proper planting, fertilizing and pruning, blackberry plants can produce abundant harvests for many years.

PLANTING LOCATION & SOIL

Blackberries grow well in most soil types, but good drainage is important. Plant in an area with full sun for best fruit production. Adding compost or worm castings at planting and each year afterward improves soil quality and promotes healthy growth.

FERTILIZING

Blackberries respond well to balanced fertilizers such as Down To Earth Vegetable Garden (4-4-4) or Espoma Berry Tone (4-3-4). Apply fertilizer at blossoming time to support fruit production.

PLANTING

Plant blackberry transplants at about the same depth they were growing in the nursery. Mix compost or worm castings into the soil used to fill the planting hole to enrich the root zone. Space plants at least three feet apart to allow for mature growth.

Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses
Boise's Local Garden Center Since 1983
2940 S Five Mile Rd | Boise, Idaho



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PRUNING & TRAINING

As new canes begin growing in spring, guide them along the row until they are ready to be trained. Blackberries produce fruit on two-year-old canes.

TRAINING SYSTEM

A simple training method for home gardeners is to use a stake with a cross arm about five feet high. Canes can be trained up the stake or loosely tied using strong twine.

TIP PRUNING

In late spring, prune this year's new canes (primocanes) to about 3-4 feet tall. This encourages strong lateral branches and improves fruit production the following year. Remove any dead or diseased canes as you prune.

POST-HARVEST PRUNING

After harvest in summer, remove the two-year-old fruiting canes (floricanes) near the ground. This encourages new canes to develop for future harvests.

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