



## Success with Kiwis

- The popular fuzzy kiwi, *Actinidia deliciosa*, is a subtropical vine that grows up to 30 feet long and produces fuzzy brown fruit the size of large eggs. The fruit have a tough skin that must be peeled off before eating. Fuzzy kiwi vines are normally winter-hardy to somewhere between 0°F and 10°F, depending upon degree of plant dormancy. The hardy kiwi, *Actinidia arguta*, differs from the fuzzy kiwi in that the fruit are smaller, 1" across, shiny green, and can be eaten without peeling. Hardy *A.arguta* kiwi vines are cold-hardy to -25°F. Another hardy kiwi, *Actinidia kolomikta*, is hardy to -40°F.
- Kiwis prefer rich, well-drained soil with ample summer water. When planting kiwis, the best site is one that is not subject to early fall freezes or late spring frosts. The trunks of the fuzzy kiwi vines are the most susceptible to winter damage and can be protected by wrapping them in the winter. Neither home nor commercial growers of kiwi in the Pacific Northwest have reported any serious insect or disease problems.

- Kiwi is a dioecious plant: male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. To

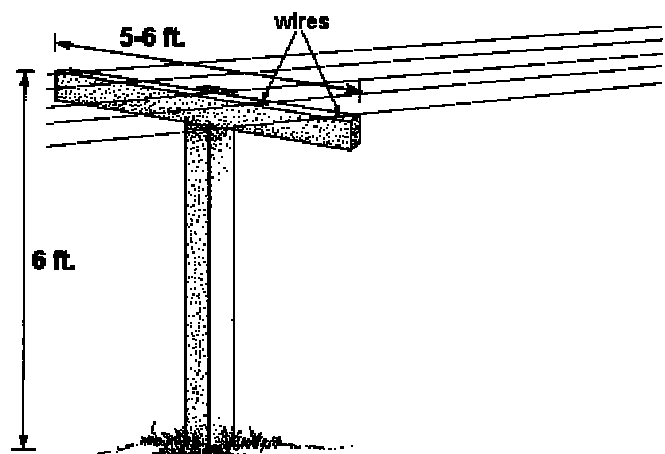


cross-pollinate, interplant male vines with the female fruit-producing vines. Pollen from one male vine can pollinate up to eight surrounding female vines. Vines do not begin to bear fruit until they have grown for 4 or more years. Maximum production is attained at about 8 years.



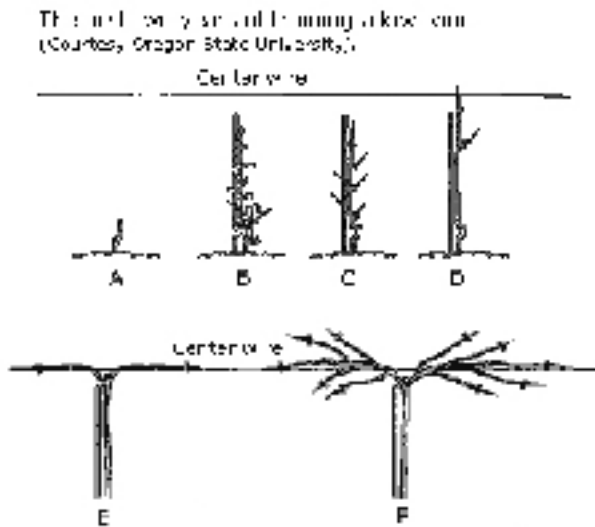
### Trellising the Vines

The best trellis for ease of harvest and pruning for the home gardener is a 6-foot T-bar trellis made of treated post set in concrete. Space three to five 12-gauge horizontal wires at 1- to 1.5-foot intervals and space plants 15 to 20 feet apart within the trellis. A typical T-bar trellis consists of posts with a 5- to 6-foot (depending on row width) long cross arm extending across the post. The kiwi fruiting canes are tied to wires on top of the cross arm.

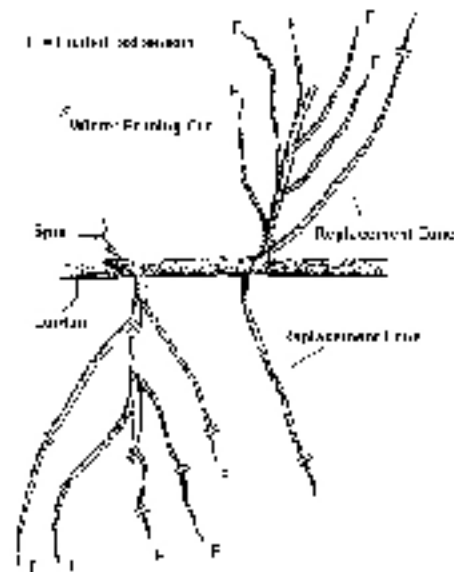
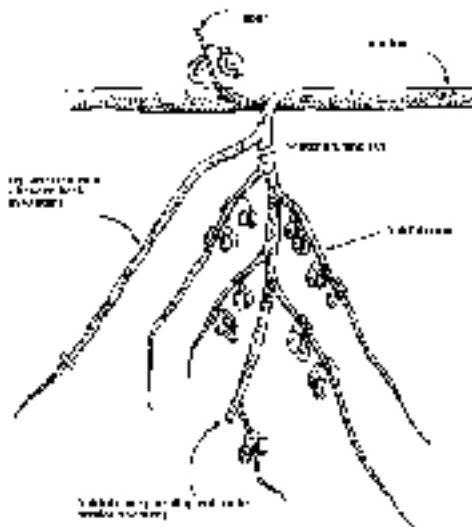


## Training the Young Plant

(A-D) Develop the young vine by pruning back to 2 buds at planting. Train the strongest shoot as the trunk, removing all others. If the terminal loses vigor, head it back and train the strongest shoot that pushes. Continue to remove other shoots (this may take up to 2 growing seasons), heading back the trunk to just below the center wire. (E) Choose two shoots to form laterals along the center wire. Head back to 1/4 inch diameter in dormant season. (F) Shoot growth, next year. Pruning cuts in dormant season are shown by //.



During the next growing season, select fruiting arms spaced at 2-foot intervals along the permanent leaders. These developing fruiting arms will grow at right angles to the permanent leaders and will bear for 2 to 3 years. Fruit will develop on shoots from these arms and hang down below the trellis wires. In the spring, pinch back the developing fruiting shoots to six leaves. Pinch off near the wire any erect water shoots on top of the trellis. During the summer, continue to pinch off the majority of developing arms. Leave only a number sufficient to serve as replacements for shoots that are no longer fruitful. During the winter, cut 2-year-old arms back severely (Below) leave only two to three fruiting shoots that bore fruit the previous summer. These shoots will bear new shoots and fruit the next spring and summer.



## Sources, and more information on Kiwi Growing-

- WSU Extension Bulletin EB1640 *Growing Small Fruits for the Home Garden*
- *Growing Kiwifruit*. EC1464. 1995. Oregon State University.
- Kiwifruit, Northwest Berry Information Network-  
<http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/fruitgrowing/berrycrops/kiwifruit.htm>