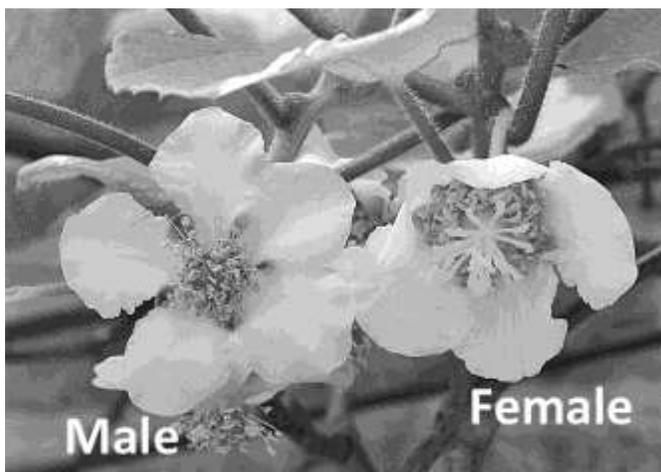


## Success with Kiwis

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.

