

LOW CHILL KIWI FRUIT

HARDY KIWI (Actinidia arguta)

These very cold hardy fruit are native to temperate eastern Asia. Typically, plants are male or female with one male required to pollinate 6-8 female plants. Fruit are smooth, thin skinned and around one inch long. Fruit are very sweet and are eaten skin and all with no peeling required. Skin color is bronze-green and flesh is lime-green in color. There are many named varieties available, but insufficient information is available on chill hours required for these plants to produce or flourish. Several varieties have been grown in areas that receive an average of 300-400 chill hours and have preformed well, but more trials need to be preformed to determine exact areas of adaptability for these small, delicious kiwi fruit.

The following is a table of varieties which have produced in areas of 300-400 chill hours or that have good potential for producing in those areas. It is by no means a complete list of varieties that should be tried, or that will preform well in those areas of little winter chill.

Cultivar	Sex	Comments
Ananasnaya	Female	Fruit to 1.5 inches long and 1 inch wide. Very sweet flesh is said to have a pineapple-like flavor. Believed to be a hybrid of Actinidia arguta and Actinidia kolomikta.
Cordifolia	Female	This variety is considerably sweeter than all other varieties. Needs more trials to determine its adaptability to low chill areas.
Issai	Female & Male	Flowers of both sex are produced on this Cultivar making it self-fertile. Fruit are seedless if not pollinized, but production will be greater if planted near a male A. arguta variety. Vine is not as vigorous as other varieties. Fruit are of good quality and flavor.
Langer (Hood River)	Female	Medium sized fruit of very good flavor.
Pacific	Male	Has a long flowering period, 'Pacific' is a good pollinator for female argutas.

FUZZY KIWI (*Actinidia chinensis*)

Cultivar	Estimated chill hours required	Sex	Comments
Abbot	400-600	Female	Small to medium sized fruit needs to be thinned to develop good size. Ripens early in season. Good flavor.
Bruno	400-600	Female	Medium to large fruit that ripens early in season. Very good flavor.
California	250-500	Male	Most commonly used male to pollinate 'Hayward' female kiwis.
Matua	100-150	Male	A very prolific, long flowering variety. 'Matua' is generally considered to be the best pollinator for female kiwis, especially the low chilling varieties.
Monty	300-500	Female	Small to medium sized fruit of medium-low quality. Vines have strong tendency to overbear and fruit must be thinned.
Tewi	100 or less	Female	Medium sized fruit of very good quality. Originating in the Canary Islands, Tewi' has the lowest chilling requirement of the known "traditional" kiwis.
Tomuri	100-150	Male	A late flowering male, Tomuri' produces a relatively small number of flowers.
Vincent	100-150	Female	Medium sized fruit of very good quality. Fruit develops better size if thinned. Along with Tewi', 'Vincent' is the best variety of traditional kiwi for low chill areas.
Yellow and Orange	200-400	Female and Male varieties	Very exciting new varieties with beautiful colored flesh and excellent flavor. These varieties are lower chill than most other green fleshed varieties. Because of their earlier flowering season, they require their corresponding male varieties as pollinators and regular green fleshed male plants do not provide adequate pollination.

ARCTIC BEAUTY KIWI (*Actinidia kolomitka*)

These very cold hardy kiwis are largely untried in low chill areas. Vines are male or female and are less vigorous than *A. arguta* reaching a maximum length of 10-12 feet. The beautiful variegated foliage is mostly dark green with white and pink on the growing tips and young leaves. Vines are very shade tolerant and usually prefer to be grown in at least partial shade. Extremely sweet fruit, the size of a very large grape, are smooth, thin skinned and emerald green in color. Fruit are very high in vitamin C and are eaten skin and all. Many named cultivars of both male and female vines are available. The highly ornamental nature of these vines and the excellent quality of the fruit make this kiwi worthy of further trials to determine if they are suitable for low chill and warm winter areas.