

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND HOW OF GROWING BLACKBERRIES IN SAN JACINTO COUNTY, TEXAS



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WHO CAN GROW BLACKBERRIES?

- Anyone with a small piece of land can grow blackberries.
- Time, patience, knowledge and WATER are all that is needed.

WHAT VARIETIES WORK WELL?

There are three varieties that work well
in
San Jacinto County.

Arapaho
Quachita
Natchez



VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Arapaho – Medium sized berries, Mid- June; 3-4 erect canes; 1-2 inch berry, medium sized

Quachita - Medium to large sized berries; Very sweet, disease resistant; Mid June early July; years to bear 1 – 2 year

Natchez- Developed in 2007 by the University of Arkansas. High yield; early June; Large, black berries with sweet taste

WHERE DO THEY GROW

- Full to partial sun (slight shade)
- Sandy loam or enriched soil
- Well-drained soil
- Need a water source daily (between 1 – 2 gallons of H₂O during summer months)
- Do not plant near -Peppers, Tomatoes, Eggplants, potatoes or strawberries for at least the last three years
- Zones 6-9

HOW TO GROW

- Plant young vines in the early spring
- Space 3 – 4' apart
- Must be trellised or planted next to a fence
- Make sure soil is well drained and amended to 6.0 -6.8 pH
- Arapaho, Quachita and Natchez are self-pollinating
- Will put out shoots that are 4 – 5' long
- Must be pruned each year in late winter or early spring and may be pruned during the year, when necessary





- Normally will not produce berries year one
- Need to be fertilized yearly with 10-10-10 or 13-13-13
- Will need to be harvested in June and/or July
- Pick every three to six days during production
- Prune off all old wood during late fall or very early spring before leaf break; berries form on new growth.
- Will produce for 15 to 20 years if properly cared for

RESOURCES

- North Carolina State University on thornless blackberries;
- West Virginia Cooperative Extension on thornless blackberries;
- The Vegetable Gardener provides personal insight into her blackberry care regime;
- Doyle's Thornless Blackberry – one of its most popular plants.

