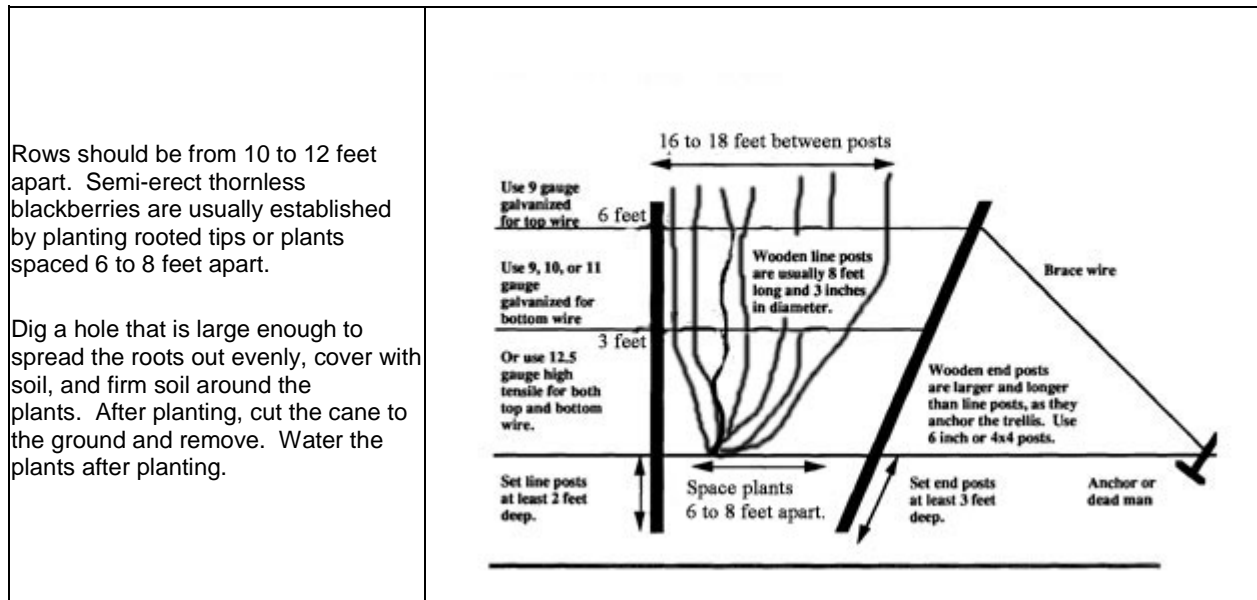


The fruit of the semi-erect thornless blackberries is produced later than the erect blackberries, and the fruit may not be as sweet. The plants do not form free standing hedgerows, but must be trellised and are managed as separate plants. Semi-erect blackberries are best adapted to southern Missouri.

Recommended cultivars: Chester, Hull and Triple Crown.

Planting: Plant blackberries in the spring and plants are trellised. Trellis may be constructed of wooden or steel posts.



Growth cycle: The blackberry cane grows for two years. The first year, it is called a "primocane" and does not bear fruit unless it is a primocane bearing variety. If a non-primocane fruiting type, it must be tipped or pinched back in summer so that it will produce lateral shoots that will bear fruit the following year. The second year it is called a floricanes and it bears fruit and dies. Productive hedgerows have a healthy mixture of both primocanes and floricanes at harvest.

Fertilizer application (if not based on soil test):

Planting year: One month after planting, apply 1 cup 13-13-13 or equivalent evenly around each plant.

Years after planting: Apply 2 cups 13-13-13 or equivalent evenly around each plant in spring.

Blossoms and Pollination: You do not need 2 cultivars for cross pollination of blackberries. Pollination is achieved via insects and wind.

Harvest and Yield: The semi-erect blackberries generally ripen in July and August after the erect, hedge forming blackberries. The fruit is ripe when it dulls somewhat in color and is removed easily from the plant. It is best to test a few berries. The fruit is used fresh but is more often used for cobbles, pies, jellies, jams and preserves. Blackberries will last from 2 to 3 days in the refrigerator if handled properly. Yield is 4 to 10 quarts per plant.

Pruning: The blackberry cane grows for two years. The first year, it is called a "primocane" and does not bear fruit, but must be tipped or pinched back to that it will produce lateral shoots that will bear fruit the following year. The second year it is called a floricanes; it bears fruit and dies. Semi-erect thornless blackberries must be supported by a trellis similar to that used for grapes. The trellis can be constructed of posts set so that they are 5 to 6 feet tall and spaced 12 to 20 feet apart in the row.

Pests and problems: Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) and Anthracnose fungal disease are problems. Cold injury from winter low temperature is also a potential problem.

	<p>Summer pruning and training (left): Primocanes are shown in the figure at left, floricanes that produce the fruit are not shown. Tie 6 to 8 primocanes per plant to the trellis in the shape of a fan. In the first year, all you will have is the primocanes. Cut off the tip of the primocanes when they grow past the top wire of the trellis, so that lateral branches are formed. If laterals grow so long that the tips touch the ground, the tips may root. In order to prevent this, remove the low laterals during the summer or drape them over the trellis so they do not root at the tips.</p> <p>You can remove the floricanes (not shown) that produced fruit after harvest, or you can wait until the dormant season to do this.</p>
	<p>Unpruned semi-erect blackberry plant in the dormant season (left). Old floricanes have been removed.</p>
	<p>Dormant season pruning and training (left): Remove the old floricanes (not shown) that produced the fruit in the past summer if they haven't yet been removed. Shorten the lateral branches of the new floricanes that will produce fruit in the upcoming summer to between 18 and 24 inches. Remove laterals that occur less than 3 feet from the ground. What you are left with after the dormant season pruning are the new floricanes that will produce fruit in the upcoming summer.</p>