

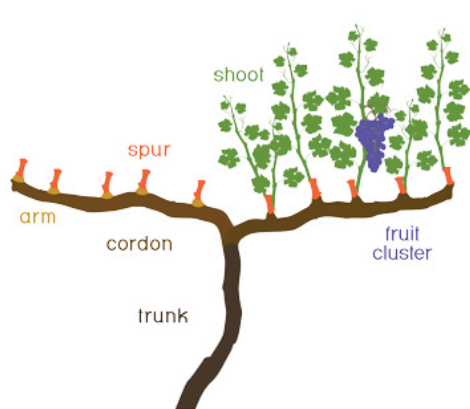


Vining Fruit Basics

Success in growing blackberries and boysenberries depends mainly on heat management, variety selection, soil preparation and microclimate creation.

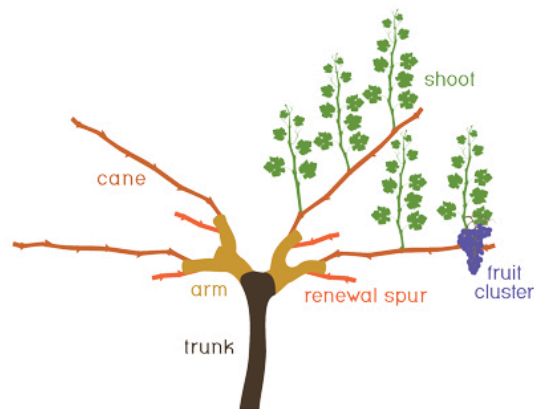
1. Blackberries and boysenberries

- a. Choose a variety that requires 300 or less chill hours. Thornless varieties Black Satin or Chester do great in our zone 9b.
- b. Choose a location with filtered morning sun and afternoon full shade. Avoid gravel and bare brick walls.
- c. Build a berm around the berry after it's been planted and heavily mulch the surrounding area to condition and keep the soil cool.
- d. Fertilize once per quarter, every three months (Feb, April, July, October).
 - i. Feed with castings, compost, mulch, worm tea.
 - ii. In early spring (Feb- March) feed with BSFL Fertilizer. 1 cup BSFL to 1 Gallon of water to encourage fruit production.
- e. Train on a trellis to grow vertically.
- f. It will fruit on second year wood.
- g. Very important to prune every winter:
 - i. Sharpen and sanitize pruners before every use.
 - ii. New wood that is green or purple needs to be trimmed at a 45 degree angle.
 - iii. Remove any dead wood.
 - iv. Leave three or four of the strongest canes.
 - v. Remove crowded canes. Too many canes can cause rotting fungus.
- h. Must have afternoon shade protection.



SPUR PRUNING

GRAPES



CANE PRUNING

BLACKBERRIES

2. Grapes

- a. Flame Seedless or Thompson are best
- b. Both varieties only need 100 chill hours. A chill hour is when the temperature is below 45 and above 32. Maricopa County averages 300 - 400 chill hours annually.
- c. Grapes are tolerable to full sun after the first summer, once roots have matured. Recommended to shade for at least the first summer (May- Oct).
- d. Train to grow vertical on a tall trellis or horizontally on a shorter fence
 - i. Tie back with tape or twine to secure weight once fruiting and train to grow vertically.
- e. Spur Pruning is recommended every winter (Dec- Jan)
 - i. Fruiting spurs are made from last year's growth
 - ii. Prune new vines back to become a short spur with 2 or 3 buds (nodes), which will produce grapes.
 - iii. Each bud on the spur produces a new green shoot with grape clusters.
- f. Fertilize once per quarter, every three months (Feb, April, July, October).
 - i. Feed with castings, compost, mulch, worm tea.
 - ii. You should also fertilize with BSFL Nutrient + in early Spring. 1 cup of BSFL for every gallon of water.

3. Watering

- a. Build a large berm similar to a fruit tree (like a moat) to water and feed properly. Fill with water once a week.
- b. Increase irrigation to filling twice per week in late Spring- Summer

Shade Tree Recommendations for building a microclimate

1. Mesquite- (Evergreen) Extreme heat tolerance, nitrogen fixing, edible pods
2. Palo Verde (Evergreen) Very open canopy, extreme heat tolerance, excellent light diffusion
3. Mastic- (Evergreen) Very heat tolerant, beautiful red bark, manageable canopy
4. Moringa- (Deciduous) Extremely fast growing, light canopy, edible leaves
5. Mulberry- (Deciduous) Extremely fast growing, large dense canopy, heat tolerant

6. Tipu- (Semi-deciduous) Fast growing, attractive yellow flowers and foliage