

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Easy (can be vigorous)
TYPE Perennial cane, from canes/cuttings
MATURITY 1–2 years to first crop



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



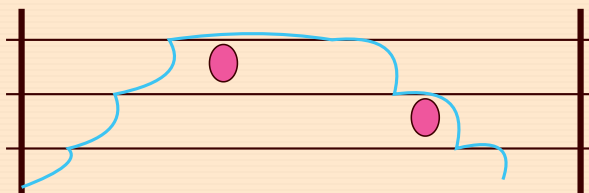
SPACING
1–2m on wires



DEPTH
as per cane

01 Choose a thornless variety

Modern thornless varieties make blackberry a far more manageable homestead crop than wild forms — trained on wires, it's vigorous but not unruly.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant canes against a wire support system.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Train new canes onto wires as they grow.
- Water regularly through fruit development.
- Prune out spent canes after fruiting.
- Contain the planting — even thornless varieties spread via tip-rooting canes.

04 Problems

- **Vigorous spread** — the main management task; prune and contain regularly.
- **Birds** — net as fruit ripens.
- **Cane blight** — remove and destroy affected canes.
- **Fruit fly** — pick promptly once ripe.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fully black, plump, comes away easily.
METHOD	Pick gently by hand.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge a couple of days; freezes very well.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a berry glut) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Garlic

Tansy

AVOID NEARBY

Raspberry (shared disease risk)

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial cane bed.