



Caring For Mulberries



Mulberries are ornamental and fruitful treats. The fruit can be used for jellies, wine and desserts. Mulberries also attract birds in large numbers.

Choosing a site:

Mulberries prefer full sun and plenty of space. The distance between trees should be at least 20 to 25 feet. The trees should not be planted near any pathways. The fallen fruit will not only stain the walkway, but are likely to be tracked indoors. They prefer well drained loamy soils but tolerate most soils except poorly drained ones.

Planting:

Plant trees as soon as possible in the later winter/ early spring. Dig the hole twice as wide and as deep as they root system. Plant the trees so the uppermost roots are no deeper than one inch below the soil line. The graft union should also be 2 to 3 inches above ground level. Spread the roots out over the soil and fill hole with mixture of 1/3 compost and 2/3 native soil. If you wish to apply a slow release fruit tree fertilizer now that is great but not essential.

Pruning:

No special pruning techniques are needed after the branches have been trained to a sturdy framework, except to remove dead or overcrowded wood. It is not advisable to prune the trees heavily since the plant is inclined to bleed at the cuts. Cuts of more than two inches in diameter generally do not heal and should be avoided at all cost. The bleeding will be less severe if the tree is pruned while it is dormant.

Harvest:

Mulberries ripen over a long period. Ripe berries tend to fall off the tree. For eating raw, leave black Mulberries on the tree for as long as possible before picking, although when ripe they will begin to drop naturally. For cooking and making jams and jellies, pick mulberries when still slightly under ripe.