



Urban Harvest
Gardening for good.

Mulberries

Category:	Temperate; deciduous
Hardiness:	Easily withstands freezes
Fruit Family:	Morus
Light:	Full sun
Size:	9'H x 8'W average, may be pruned to desired HxW
Soil:	Well-drained, will not tolerate standing water
Planting:	Plant during dormancy in Jan – Feb



Mulberries are a wonderful addition to the home orchard. The fruit can be eaten fresh, used in baking, frozen, or used in jams and jellies. There are dwarf varieties and varieties with non-staining juice!

Care of Mulberries

Planting: Select a planting area that is well-drained or create a raised planting bed. Remove all vegetation within a minimum three-foot diameter circle.

Locate the root flare; the point where the trunk transitions to the roots. Remove any nursery soil above this point, making sure the roots are still covered. Trim any roots that appear to be circling the root ball and any broken or clearly dead roots. Measure the depth of the resulting root ball.

Dig a hole that is wide and deep enough to easily accommodate the root ball. The sides of the hole should be tapered outward, not straight down (visualize a wok, not a stock pot) with the widest point at the top of the hole. The deepest point of the hole should be no deeper than your measurement of the root ball. This will allow the root flare to sit at the soil level and insures that the graft scar (located several inches about the root flare) will always be several inches above the soil level.

Place the root ball in the prepared hole. Check for straightness. Position the lowest branch you have decided to keep facing southwest. Backfill $\frac{1}{2}$ of the depth with existing soil – no amendments should be added during planting. Water well and allow it to drain. Fill the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ of the depth. Tamp the soil, but do not pack hard. Water in well and water every day for a few days unless it rains. A mulch of composted native mulch or rotted leaves is highly recommended. Do not use bark mulch.

Pruning & Training: Except for dwarf varieties, mulberries can grow very tall. After they lose their leaves in winter, they should be pruned to about 7' - 8' in order to bring the fruit down to picking level. They can grow to a 10' diameter.

Production: Mulberries will produce fruit in first or second year.

Watering: All fruit trees should get consistent water in the first few years. Watering can come from rain or a hose. During the first year, if the soil under the mulch is dry, provide the tree with about 7 gallons of water per week, preferably once a week. Water slowly. This can be a little more than 3 minutes with a ½" hose and 1 ½ minutes with a 5/8" hose. Remember to account for rainfall when determining how much to water with a hose.

Fertilizing: Mulberries are not heavy feeders. If they are regularly mulched with compost and fallen leaves, they will be very productive. If you prefer, fertilize with a couple of cups of cottonseed meal or other organic fertilizer in late February or early March.

Harvesting: The fruit is ready when it changes color from red to black. Begin tasting when red - some varieties can be sweet before turning black.

Pests: Mulberry trees are relatively pest free.

Winter Protection: Winter protection is not necessary for mulberries.

Varieties of Mulberries for the 2020 Sale

Dwarf Mulberry, Pakistan Mulberry

Varieties of Mulberry for Southeast Texas

Dwarf Mulberry: This easy-to-grow variety is an abundant producer of extremely sweet, medium-sized fruit. Fruit ripens in early summer. It is eaten fresh, used in pies and frozen desserts, and processed in jams & jellies. It will perform well in containers, yielding several crops per year. They can be kept under 2' tall with moderate pruning. If planted in the ground, this variety should be trained and grown as a large shrub, perhaps reaching 7'. Self-fruitful.

Pakistan Mulberry: Fruits are 3" long, firm, red to black, and very sweet with non-staining juice. Month-long early summer harvest. Fruit used fresh and for pies, jams, and jellies. Large, vigorous, disease-resistant tree. Will grow to 15'-20' tall.