Navaho Thornless Blackberry - New For 2026!

Rubus 'Navaho'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Navajo Thornless Blackberry

Description:

The first erect growing, thornless blackberry; huge, juicy and sweet berries in mid summer; a hardy, heavy producer; needs a specific pruning regimen and protection from birds

Edible Qualities

Navaho Thornless Blackberry is a medium-sized shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces large black oval berries which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves
- Canning
- Freezing

Features & Attributes

Navaho Thornless Blackberry features dainty white flowers with shell pink overtones and chartreuse eyes along the branches in late spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The serrated oval compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall colour. It features an abundance of magnificent black berries in mid summer.



Navaho Thornless Blackberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Navaho Thornless Blackberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage. This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep. Each spring, cut back all dead and two-year old canes to the ground, leaving only last year's growth standing. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Navaho Thornless Blackberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping



Navaho Thornless Blackberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Navaho Thornless Blackberry will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This shrub may not always play well with others; as such, it is best grown in its own designated garden space or isolated area of an edibles garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.