Issai Hardy Kiwi

Actinidia arguta 'Issai'

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Bower Actinidia

Issai Hardy Kiwi fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Issai Hardy Kiwi
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A vigorous climbing vine selected for its delicious edible Kiwi fruit; unlike the species, does not require a male pollinator to set fruit; very hardy and adaptable

Edible Qualities

Issai Hardy Kiwi is a woody vine that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces small green oval fruit which are usually ready for picking from early to mid fall. The fruits have a sweet taste.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating

Features & Attributes

Issai Hardy Kiwi features dainty fragrant white buttercup flowers with yellow anthers along the branches from mid to late spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The large oval leaves turn yellow in fall. It features an abundance of magnificent green berries in early fall.

This is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous woody vine with a spreading, ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Issai Hardy Kiwi is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Issai Hardy Kiwi will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it should be planted next to a fence, trellis or other rigid structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This woody vine can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.