



Easy Edible

Mulberry:

General info: Mulberry (*Morus*) trees are often called blackberry trees because the fruit looks like long blackberries and the taste is similar to a seedless blackberry. The fruit can be eaten fresh or made into jellies or syrups. Mulberries are rarely found in stores because they only last a few days after harvesting, unless they are frozen or dried.

The trees are deciduous, fast growing, and can reach 15-30 ft. If not trained to a single trunk, they tend to grow as a multi-stemmed shrub. They are easy to grow. The mulberry tree was well known as a fruit tree in Jerusalem, where the black mulberry trees thrived in the poor soil and drought climate conditions. A black mulberry tree may produce fruit for hundreds of years.

The trees bear fruit in the late spring and bear over several weeks instead of all at one time, like many other fruits. Mulberries are an important source of food for deer and game, and migrating birds such as Robins, Waxwings, and thrushes. The fruit is available at a time of year when there is little ripe fruit available.

Landscape uses: Specimen or shade tree

Ornamental qualities: Lush leaves all summer

Planting: Grows best in full sun and well-drained soil, but is tolerant of poorer soils.

Pruning: Modified leader or multi-trunked. Remove dead and crossing branches each winter.

Fertilizing/Watering: Fertilize in late winter and mid-summer. Minimal fertilizer is needed.

Varieties:

Ever-bearing Dwarf- Stays under 9ft in height making it an excellent back yard variety. Purple sweet fruit producing for a longer period of time during the summer than most types.