

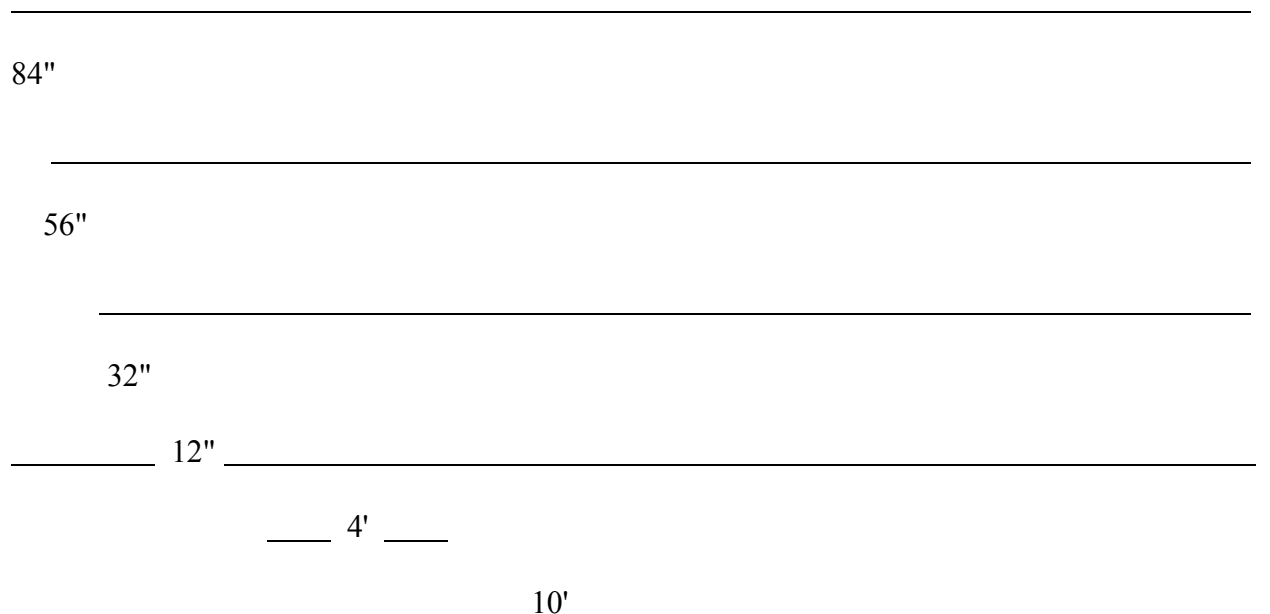
Organic, Thornless, Erect Blackberry Culture
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Varieties such as Apache and Navaho will have increased vigor and plant size as well as higher yields if grown on a 3' wide double dug bed. Space the plants 4' apart and provide a 7 foot tall, three wire trellis to tie the canes to in a fan like pattern. The drawing as well as the list of materials explain the details and costs of construction. The order in tightening wires should be from the top to the bottom.

The bed should be prepared in early February using 3' x 30' as a convenient size to accommodate a trellis for 8 plants at 4' apart. According to a soil test, apply lime if needed. Obtain well rooted plants from a certified nursery in time to set the plants in the soil mid-February to mid-March. Apply about one pound of organic fertilizer in an 18" diameter circle around each plant and stir it in the surface. In mid-February the second and succeeding years apply 1.5 pounds per plant in a 30" diameter circle. Mulch the plants and the entire bed with 4-6" of well weathered hay or straw. Replenish this mulch in mid-summer and at least twice per year in the future. Use a drip hose down the center of the bed and maintain good moisture.

Begin tying the canes to the trellis wire as they grow. A handy material to use for tying is surveyors marking tape. It should be tied in a figure 8 to prevent the wire from chafing the canes. As shown in the diagram a fan pattern is desired, including looping long laterals back to the wires. The goal is to get an even distribution of sunlight for optimum growth, flowering, and fruit ripening. Remember, the canes develop the first year and then flower and fruit the second year. Also, during the second season and succeeding seasons replacement canes are produced for next years crop. As soon as the harvest is finished each season, the fruited canes should be pruned out and the replacement canes tied to the trellis.

Navaho has ripe fruit (dull black color) from late May to mid -June in our area, while Apache is ripe mid-June to mid-July. Navaho averages 5/8" long berries which are very sweet. Apache has an average berry length of 1-1 1/4" and is moderately sweet. Since Apache yields a minimum of 9 pints per plant and Navaho about 4 pints, the average family may choose to plant 5 Apache and 3 Navaho. However, blackberries are self pollenating and can be gown alone as individual varieties.



Trellis Components, and Costs

Four	72", U Posts, 13 gauge	(4 x \$3.56)	<u>\$14.24</u>
Four	48", U Posts, 14 gauge	(4 x \$2.24)	<u>8.96</u>
Four	#10-32 x 5/8" machine bolts	(4 x \$.3125)	<u>1.25</u>
One	100' length - 16 gauge galvanized wire		<u>3.10</u>
One	25' length - flagging tape		<u>.40</u>
		Total	<u>\$27.95</u>