

Issai Kiwi Vine



This mini-Kiwi has a restrained habit, needs no pollinator, and sets the most delicious miniature fruit we have ever tasted. In the garden or even in containers, you will find it easy and rewarding.



Actinidia arguta 'Issai'

- **Use:** Daunted by the rampant growth of the kiwi vine, or simply unwilling to commit so much precious garden space to one plant? Let 'Issai' bring the beauty and flavor of kiwifruit to your garden without the giant size! This mini-Kiwi has a restrained habit, needs no pollinator, and sets the most delicious miniature fruit we have ever tasted. In the garden or even in containers, you will find it easy and rewarding.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun (a southern exposure) or partial sun half-day (east or west exposure). When planted in the ground, water weekly if there is no rain. Careful attention needs to be given to watering when first planted. Once they are established they can be grown with normal rain moisture.
- **Growth:** Reaching just 12 to 20 feet long, this deciduous vine is much less vigorous than the species -- it grows easily but won't take over the garden. A twining climber, it offers glossy foliage, Do not fertilize this vine too heavily; this can trigger lush foliage growth but poor flowering and fruiting. Prune it as needed in late fall or early winter, or leave it be -- this Japanese cultivar is adaptable. self-fertile, so you need plant only one. It thrives in full sun to partial shade, and prefers good soil on the acidic side.
- **Hardiness:** Zones 5-9. Hardy down to 20 below zero.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Ornamental with showy red leaf stems.
- **Flower:** Fragrant 1-inch white blooms in early summer, and a generous harvest of 1- to 1 3/4-inch fruit in mid-fall. Really remarkable flavor, much sweeter and more succulent than the "fuzzy" kiwis found in most stores. The fruit is smooth, green, and just a little soft when fully ripe. If your season is short, pick the fruit a bit early and let it ripen in a paper bag with apples or pears. It's simple to harvest and always delicious.

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