

Prime Ark Freedom Blackberry



Growing your own berries is so easy and rewarding with these thornless blackberry plants.

Rubus fruticosus 'Prime Ark Freedom'

- **Use:** Harvest berries with ease from thornless, upright canes. Primocanes fruit first, followed by a second crop on older canes. Fruit is large, firm, and sweet. Excellent choice for home gardening or farmer's markets. Disease-resistant to rust. Everbearing primocane. Early season. Drought tolerant. Cold-hardy. Ripens in July until frost. Self-pollinating.
- **Exposure/Soil:** This cultivar prefers sun and well-drained, moderately fertile soil, but unlike most other red raspberries does not require a cold winter and gradual spring to produce good fruit. Partial shade and a cool mulch may be beneficial.
- **Growth:** When your plant matures, it will be approximately 4 - 5' tall x 3 - 4' wide. Fall-bearing or primocane blackberries respond favorably to tipping! As the primocanes reach 12-15" in height, break or cut $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" off the tip of each cane to force branching. Tip again when branches reach 30". This process stimulates earlier fruit development, keeps plant height in check, and increases yield.
- **Hardiness:** 5-9; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. In spring and summer, the leaves are shiny dark green above and gray-green below, turning to burgundy in fall and winter.
- **Flowers:** For floricanes, it has very large fruits, larger than Natchez, with excellent flavor. It also ripens exceptionally early on floricanes (9-11 days earlier than Natchez). Fruit size and total yield is similar to the Prime Ark® 45. Freedom is a great choice for local commercial distribution and home gardens. This Fall Bearing Blackberry Plant bears some fruit the first fall of planting year, and either summers or falls after that depending on how it is managed.