




# Passionfruit *(Passiflora edulis)*

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
Vine	E	2 x 6	3-5	N				Y	Spring/ summer	Midsummer to winter

**CAUTION:** Be sure to grow black passionfruit, not banana passionfruit, which is a noxious weed.

## Site

- A subtropical vine, fussy about site. Can't tolerate wind, frost, or wet feet. Frost can split the stem and kill the plant.
- Needs warm, moist conditions. Likes shade from hot afternoon sun.
- Prefers slightly acidic, sandy, moist soil that is rich in organic matter – good drainage is essential.
- Grow in a large pot if necessary, in a warm sheltered spot.
- Grow on a fence or trellis, with support wires 23cm apart – great for disguising an ugly wall.
- Fertilise it at planting time, and every 4–6 weeks in the first growing season. Once the vine is bearing fruit, don't add nitrogen during the growing season – this leads to a lot of leafy growth rather than fruit, and makes the vine more vulnerable to diseases.
- Self-fertile. Bees love the flowers. To get more fruit, hand-pollinate with a soft brush in the late morning (the time when the female part is receptive to pollen).

## Care

- Short-lived – only lasts 5–7 years.
- Prepare a 1-metre deep planting hole, with plenty of well-rotted manure. If the soil is heavy, plant it on a mound.
- Plant out between mid-October and January, and shorten back the main stem to let the roots get established.
- If grown in a container, repot every year in early spring.
- Has shallow, spreading roots – needs a thick layer of mulch to keep the roots moist and control weeds, but keep a clear space around the stem or it will rot.
- Because the vine is so leafy it needs a lot of water – every day in hot weather. If the roots get dry, the leaves and fruit will fall off. However, don't overwater, as this leads to root rot!
- Needs a strong supporting structure – train against a wall or across a pergola.
- Can be left untrained, but training and tying up will prevent the development of a disease-prone tangle.
- At planting, place two light stakes on either side of the plant in a fan shape, and tie them to the wires. Choose the four strongest shoots that grow in spring, and gently tie them to the stakes. Remove all other shoots.
- As these leaders grow, tie them to the stakes until they reach the wires, then train one each way along the lower wire, and the other two along the top wire (see diagram). Regularly remove all other shoots so that all the plant's energy goes into establishing these leaders.
- Bears fruit on the new season's growth.
- Once established, prune every year in spring after the plant has started to grow. Sacrifice the last fruit, or you'll end up cutting off the new season's growth.



- Shorten all the laterals to 15–20cm below each wire (see diagram), cutting to a young side shoot, rather than to a bud.
- Cut out any dead, diseased and weak growth. Remove all the prunings from your property.
- If the vine gets straggly, prune it back to ground level and start again.

### Companions

- Plant marigolds nearby.

### Harvest

- May produce fruit in the first year.
- Fruit ripens from midsummer and throughout the winter – the skin turns dark purple and the fruit falls off.
- Harvest daily in the morning, so the fruit doesn't get scorched by the sun. Gently shake the vine to make ripe fruit fall.
- Eat fresh or add to fruit salad, ice cream, yoghurt, cakes, juice. Can be frozen for up to a year.

### Health

- A good source of vitamins A, B and C, minerals, fibre.
- The fruit and herbal tea made from the leaves have a calming influence.

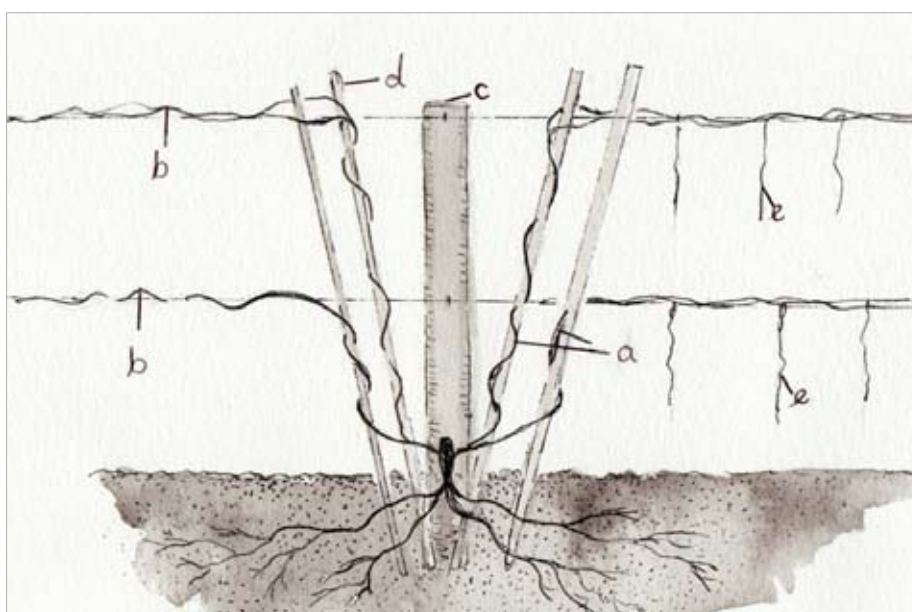
### Plants for free

#### Seed

- Pick out the seeds from the flesh, wash them, and sow them immediately 1cm deep in well-drained compost.

#### Cuttings

- In late spring, take 20cm cuttings with a 'heel' from new shoots.
- Put them in a pot of sandy compost and place the pot in a clear plastic bag, with sticks to keep the plastic bag from touching the cuttings.
- Keep them warm and moist.
- Pot out each seedling into its own pot when it has taken root.



Adapted from Aglink Information Pack – Subtropicals

### Passionfruit training:

- a) Main leaders
- b) Secondary leaders
- c) Post
- d) Stakes
- e) Laterals