



AU Gold and Green Kiwi Fruit Cultivars

Auburn University is seeking nurseries and growers interested in planting or selling Green or Golden Kiwi Varieties suited for moderate climates found in the southeast and west coast.

Overview: Popular kiwi cultivars often require colder winters than the southern and coastal US provides. These gold and green kiwi cultivars, however, are well suited for these milder climates and have excellent flavor. In addition, these golden kiwi plants are currently the only *A. chinensis* cultivars available for purchase in the US. Preorders are being taken for tissue culture starts available in late 2022 or spring 2023.



Advantages:

- **AVOIDS FROST** - Late blooming periods avoid spring frost in most growing areas
- **MODERATE CLIMATE** - Thrive within hardiness zones 8-9

GOLDEN CULTIVARS (*Actinidia chinensis*)

AU Golden Dragon: Produces good flavored, slightly round yellow-flesh fruit that tapers on one end. Good for most homeowners. ‘CK3’ (aka ‘Meteor’) is a suitable male pollinizer. Blooms early to mid April. 800 chill and 9500 growing degree hours give best flowering. Harvest is mid/late August.



AU Golden Sunshine: Produces good flavored, oblong fruit of good size. ‘AU Golden Tiger’ is the best male pollinizer. Can experience preharvest drop, so likely more suitable for homeowners. Blooms in late April. 700 chill and 15,000 growing degree hours give best flowering. Harvest is late August through mid-Sept.



AU Gulf Coast Gold: Suitable for commercial production due to little preharvest fruit drop. Produces good flavored, oblong fruit. ‘AU Golden Tiger’ is the best male pollinizer. Manual pollination may help maximize fruit production. Blooms in late April. Chill hours are estimated to be slightly under 700 with a similar growing degree hour requirement. Harvest is mid to late September through early October.



GREEN CULTIVAR (*Actinidia deliciosa*)

AU Fitzgerald: A lower chill hour alternative to Hayward, this cultivar can require 700-800 hours or less compared to >950 for the popular Hayward variety. Has performed well on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Suitable male pollinizer is AU Arthur. Fruit is good quality.



Status:

- Patented under USPP022191, USPP022140, USPP022159, USPP029587
- Currently taking preorders for late 2022 or spring 2023
- Growth and production verified in Alabama and Texas

Inventors:

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and a team of collaborators at
Auburn University and the Fruit
and Tea Institute

References:

- [HortScience 2008](#)
- [Acta Hort. 2018](#)
- [J Econ Entomology 2021](#)

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