

# YOUR KIWI VINE - BOY OR GIRL?

It's the Kiwi flowering season, and time to solve the mystery that has riddled home Kiwi growers for decades, "Is my Kiwi a boy or a girl?". Answering this also helps to answer the other Kiwi question that we often get, "Why do I never get fruit?!".

In order for Kiwi vines to set fruit (in most situations), you need to have at least one male plant for every 8 or so female plants. The problem often arises that the plant's gender identity is unknown, and there is an issue with fruiting (or rather with "non-fruiting"). You might have all males, or all females, or maybe just planted one plant not realizing that "it takes two", and can't for the life of you remember what it was. Here is your guide to determining the sex of your Kiwi vine, and your key to a fruitful future.

## THE BOY KIWIS

Male Kiwis are useful for one thing, and one thing only- Making lots and lots of pollen. You can see in the picture that the entire flower is composed of the pollen-laden anthers, which will be visited by pollinators and carried off to a nearby female flower. One Male Kiwi can pollinize up to 8 Female Kiwis.



Male Kiwi flowers are made up only of pollen bearing anthers.

## The Girl Kiwis

Female Kiwis are pretty easy to distinguish from males, as they have different flower parts not found in their male counterparts. You can see in the center of the flower in the picture the bright white ovaries (the part that develops into the fruit) and stigmas (the sticky finger-like end that grabs the pollen).



Female Kiwi flowers contain ovaries and stigmas