



Euphorbia Blackbird

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A selection chosen for compact, bushy habit and excellent foliage color, evergreen Blackbird has dark red new growth that matures in full sun to dark purple black by late summer. Yellow green flowers in spring provide a striking contrast to the dark leaves, and bracts will also mature to almost black if left on the plants. *Introduced by PlantHaven.*

USES

Blackbird is perfect in mixed containers and stunning in beds, borders and rockeries. Its dark leaves contrast beautifully with other foliage and flower colors.

GROWER NOTES

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- Transplant in full sun and follow with a broad-spectrum fungicide drench. Plant plug even with the soil line.
- Fertilize sparingly and avoid overwatering to prevent the development of root diseases.
- To promote basal branching, pinch or use a growth regulator 3–4 weeks after transplant.
- Apply preventives for downy and powdery mildew in fall and winter, and watch for mites during the summer months.

- While this cultivar retains foliage better than other *Euphorbias*, be aware that some loss of lower foliage is normal with the onset of cool weather.
- Space pots early in the growing season to produce better form and leaf color, as well as decrease incidence of *Botrytis* or other foliage diseases.
- The finish times noted are required to produce a full container. Additional time may be necessary to produce mature color, depending on growing environment, temperatures, etc.
- Blackbird has shown serious sensitivity (sudden and total defoliation) to certain insecticides, particularly when sprayed in hot weather or when plants are very dry. Sprays are best applied in early morning or during cool, cloudy weather. Test all chemicals prior to large-scale application, and avoid formulations of dinotefuran or imidacloprid.

PLANT DATA

- Height: 16–18"/18"
- Spread: 20"
- Bloom time: Mar–May
- USDA Zone: 7(0°)

APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- Gallon from 128–cell liner: 10–12 weeks
- Gallon from 72–cell liner: 6–8 weeks

PATENT INFORMATION

Asexual propagation prohibited
E. 'NOTHOWLEE': USPP #17178

