

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

For the week of
Feb. 15, 2009

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Notes: Kiwifruit's other names include Chinese gooseberry (though it's not a real gooseberry), melonette and yang tao (in China) plus the fun to say but rarely used goat peach, sheep peach, monkey peach and hairy pear. Sources included two fact sheets, both called "Kiwifruit," one from where I call my home, Ohio State University, and one from our neighbor to the west, Purdue University: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1426.html> and http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/kiwifruit_ars.html. Cool: The kiwi bird is the national symbol of New Zealand. Not cool: All five kiwi bird species are endangered. Why? Imported predators, habitat loss, even cars. Cool page: <http://www.squidoo.com/kiwibirds>.

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Q. Dear Twig: Where do kiwis come from? The fruit, not the bird.

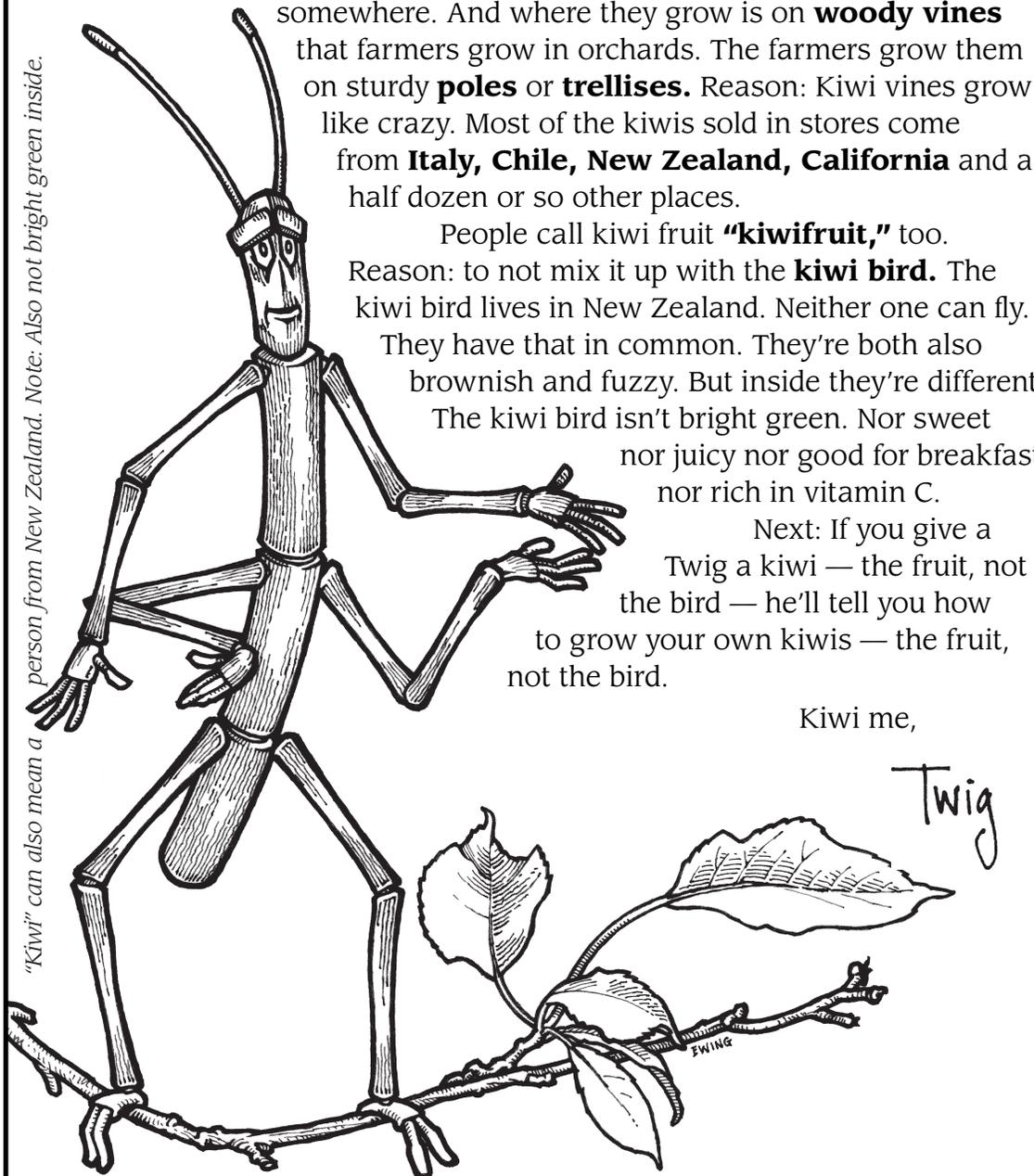
A. The grocery store, right? Right? Kidding. First they have to grow somewhere. And where they grow is on **woody vines** that farmers grow in orchards. The farmers grow them on sturdy **poles** or **trellises**. Reason: Kiwi vines grow like crazy. Most of the kiwis sold in stores come from **Italy, Chile, New Zealand, California** and a half dozen or so other places.

People call kiwi fruit "**kiwifruit**," too. Reason: to not mix it up with the **kiwi bird**. The kiwi bird lives in New Zealand. Neither one can fly. They have that in common. They're both also brownish and fuzzy. But inside they're different. The kiwi bird isn't bright green. Nor sweet nor juicy nor good for breakfast nor rich in vitamin C.

Next: If you give a Twig a kiwi — the fruit, not the bird — he'll tell you how to grow your own kiwis — the fruit, not the bird.

Kiwi me,

Twig



"Kiwifruit" can also mean a person from New Zealand. Note: Also not bright green inside.

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