

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Q. Dear Twig: OK, here's your kiwifruit. So how can I grow my own kiwifruit?

A. Thank you. Chomp. OK, here's your answer: It depends on where you live.

If where you live has mildish winters — Oregon, say, or California or the South — you can grow the kind of kiwifruit your mom or dad buys at the grocery store. Scientists call it *Actinidia deliciosa*.

But if where you live has mostly cold winters — like Ohio, where I live, or Minnesota, for example — you have to grow a different kind. *Actinidia deliciosa* can't take the cold.

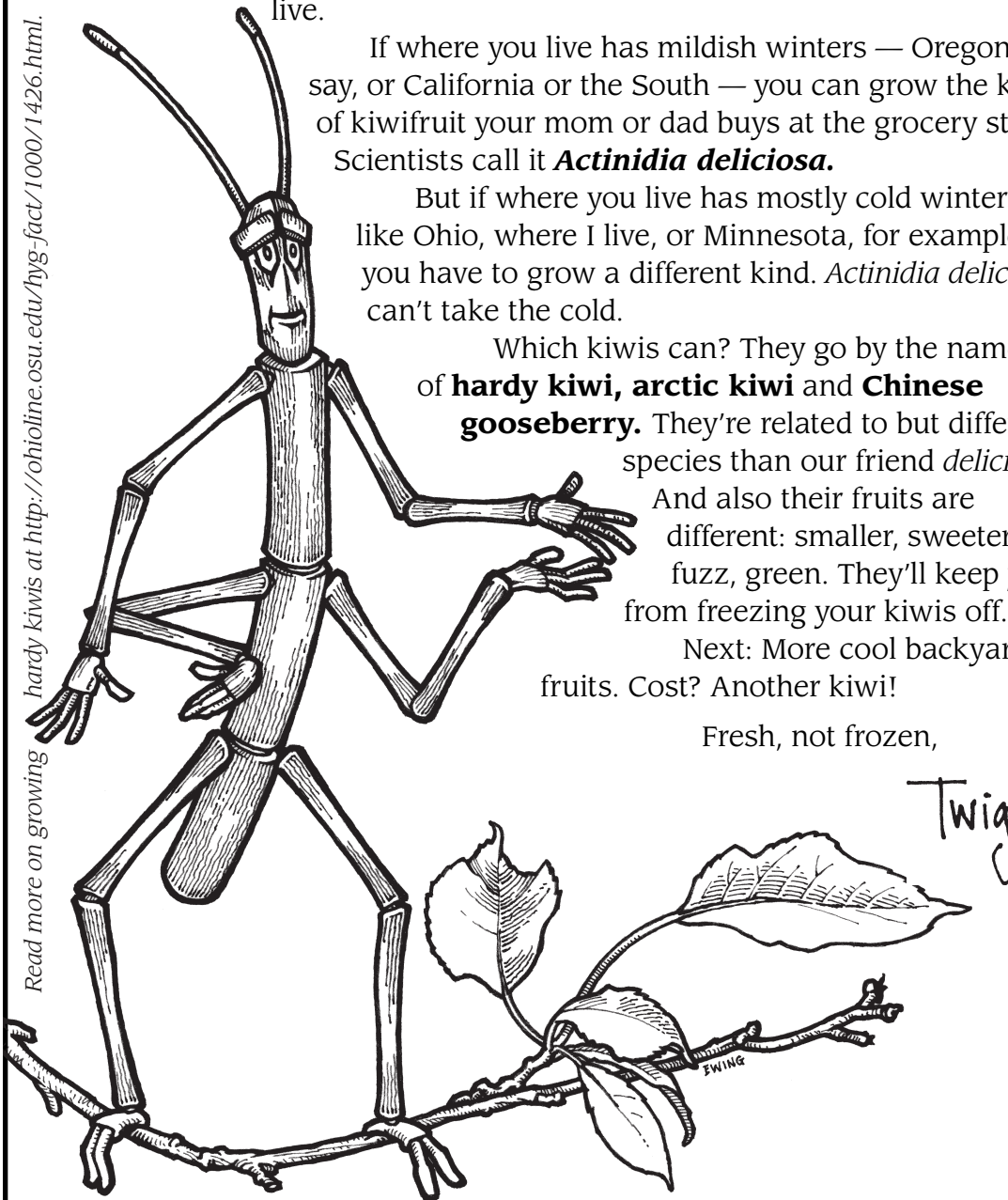
Which kiwis can? They go by the names of **hardy kiwi**, **arctic kiwi** and **Chinese gooseberry**. They're related to but different species than our friend *deliciosa*.

And also their fruits are different: smaller, sweeter, no fuzz, green. They'll keep you from freezing your kiwis off.

Next: More cool backyard fruits. Cost? Another kiwi!

Fresh, not frozen,

Read more on growing hardy kiwis at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1426.html>.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).

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Notes: The link is to a helpful fact sheet by Ohio State University Extension. OSU Extension also just published a very nice book called *Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide*, to be mentioned next week and you can read about here: <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~news/story.php?id=5023>. For further kiwifruit fun and facts try (among others) <http://fruit.cfans.umn.edu/kiwi.htm> (colder), <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-208.html> (warmer) and <http://plantanswers.tamu.edu/vegetables/kiwi.html> (even warmer). Hardy kiwis include the species *Actinidia arguta* and *Actinidia kolomikta*.

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