

Blackberry Trellis

Why trellis blackberries?

Our recommended blackberry variety is called "Natchez," which like other blackberries is easier to manage when you use a trellis. All blackberries grow by sending up new shoots every year called "canes." Like most varieties "Natchez" only produces fruit on the last year's canes, but unlike most blackberries "Natchez" is thornless. By using a trellis, it's easier to both differentiate the canes that will produce and know which canes need to be pruned. This trellis design uses a T-frame and parallel wires that make it easy to train and separate the canes and pick out the fruit without suffering through thorns if you are growing a thorned variety.

Materials

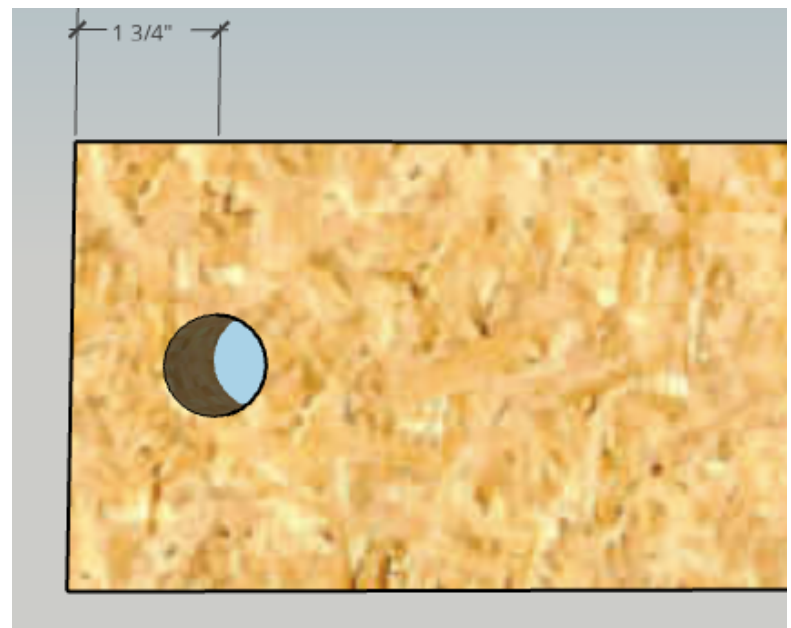
- Two 4"x4" x8' treated posts
- One 2"x4" x8' board
- Two eye screws
- Four stainless steel turnbuckles
- 14 gauge wire
- Wood screws
- Ground anchors and End Post Anchor System Kit
 - The one we use:
<https://tinyurl.com/y32dbzu3>

Tools

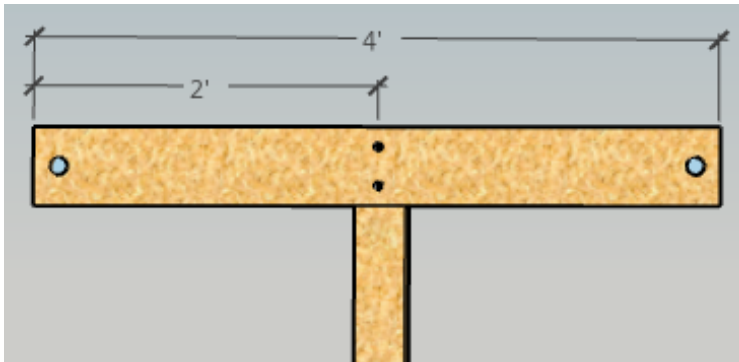
- Wood saw
- Wire tensioner tool or pliers
- Wire cutters
- Post digger
- 5/8" drill hole cutter
- Drill

Construction Steps

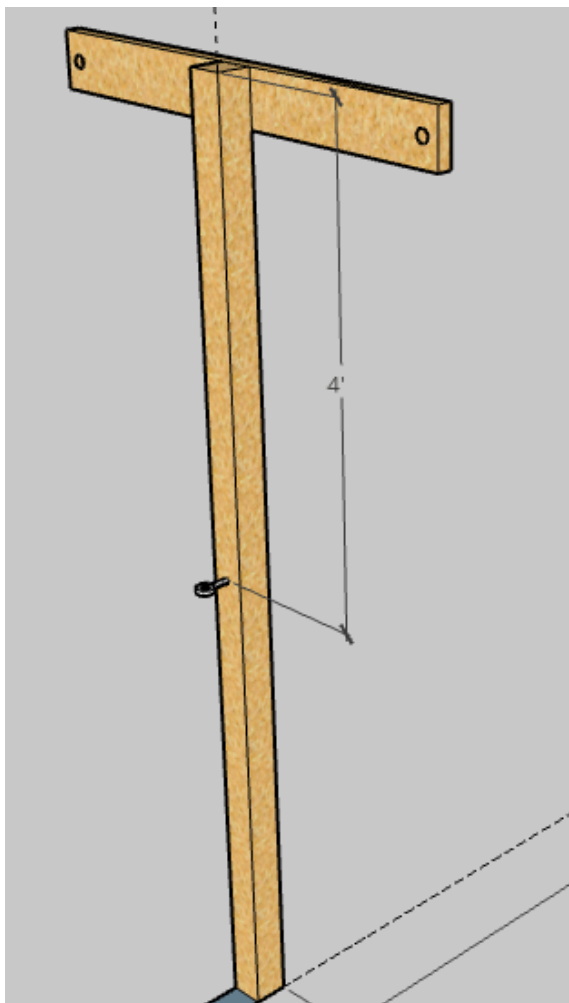
1. Begin with getting two 4"x4"x8'. These will be the posts that are the support for the trellis.
2. Cut the 2"x4"x8' board in half into two 2"x4"x4' boards.
3. On each 2"x4"x4' board, drill a 5/8" hole on each end, 1 3/4" from the edge and centered.



4. Center one 2"x6"x4" on the top edge of one of the 4"x4"x8". Attach with two wood screws.



5. Attach an eye screw on one of the 4"x4"x8' on the side opposite of the 2"x4"x4'. The eye screw should be in the center of the post, 4' down from the top. Repeat for the other 4"x4"x8' post.



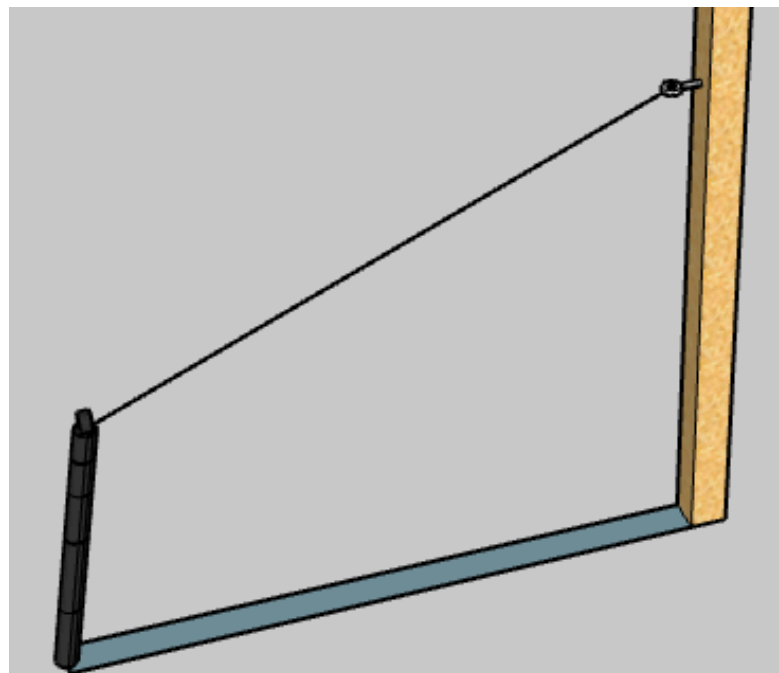
At this point in time, both sides of the trellis have been completed and are ready for installation.

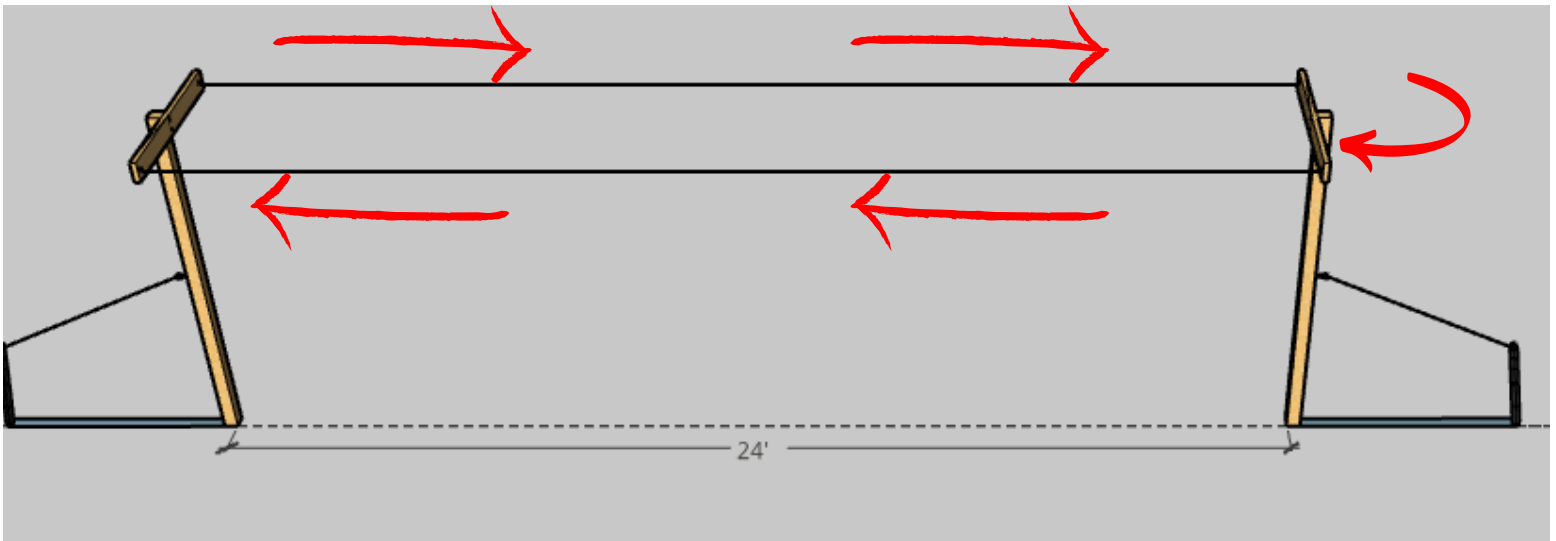
Installation

At this point in time, both sides of the trellis have been completed and are ready for installation.

1. Using a post digger, dig two holes that are 2 feet deep, 24' apart. Insert the 4"x4"x8' into the holes so that the side with the 2"x4"x4' boards are facing inwards and the eye screw is facing outwards.

2. Install one of the ground anchors behind one of the 4"x4"x8' posts, two feet back from the eye hook. Once installed, use a XX wire to secure the eye screw to the ground anchor. Tighten the wire so it is not overly loose, but do not tighten all the way.





3. Insert a stainless steel turnbuckle into each hole on the cross posts of the trellis structures. Begin threading the wire through the holes in the pattern indicated by the arrows above. The turnbuckles will allow the wire to be pulled through one way, but will lock them from pulled out.

4. Once you have the wire pulled through each hole, use a wire tensioning tool to fully tighten the wire. The wire will need to be fully taught in order to support the blackberry canes.

5. Finally, tighten the wires attaching the ground anchor to the eye screw. The trellis is now ready to use!

Using the Trellis

1. Plant your blackberry plants in a straight line between the two trellis posts.

2. The first year of growth, tie all the canes to the same wire on 1 side of the trellis. When you do this cut the tips off the cane to trigger side shoots. This season the canes will not produce fruit, but the next year they will.

3. The next year you will have one set of canes tied to one side of the trellis, and new cane growth that is not trellised. Trellis this new growth to the opposite wire from last season. Harvest berries from last years canes.

4. At the end of the season, cut down all of the canes on the side of the trellis that produced fruit. Leave the canes on the side that did not produce for next season.

5. The following year the canes that did not produce last year will produce. Repeat the process of trellising new growth on the opposite wire and cutting down the canes that produced fruit in future years.



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