

KIWI QUALITY EVALUATION - QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

SFA Gardens has been evaluating the Golden Kiwi (*Actinidia chinensis*) for several years. Our planting produced a good crop in Sept 2014 and Sept 2015. This consumer survey is based on *Actinidia chinensis* 'Golden Dragon', which produced 753 lbs on first pick and 122 lbs a week later, for a total of 875 lbs on 8 vines. Most participants were not familiar with the smooth skinned golden kiwi.



Questionnaires were handed out with sacks to a wide range of citizens. It asked for a “quality” ranking, with 10= fantastic and 0 = I will never eat one again. The survey asked for general comments on sweetness, tartness, after taste, shelf life, etc. Remarks below are email copy/paste with the names redacted. After fifty evaluations were received, we’ve concluded Golden Kiwi fruit gets a high ranking (8.84). Most found them sweet, quick to ripen, and not blessed with a great shelf life. Some like to eat them with the skin, some do not. While not a scientific survey, the remarks below do provide insight into issues related to introducing this new fruit in the southern market place.

1. 10. Absolutely. Fantastically delicious. Eaten with the skin on and it tasted a bit sour, but with a great sweetness to it as well. The twang wasn't overpowering. I've live on some rural acreage with a fruit orchard, and you better believe I'm going to try to get some of these growing. Luckily, I got more than one sack. Can't wait to share them with the family. Thanks for sharing and congrats on another good harvest.

2. 10. Very delicious! I enjoyed the fact that the skins could be consumed. I hope the growing of these kiwis continues - would love to help and learn more about growing them. Thanks, XXXX

3. 8. Pale, not the pretty green, but taste wonderful – better than in stores this summer. Would not care to eat the peel.
4. 7. Give them a 10 on taste (skin was especially good and less furry than usual). Color was a 6 (which DOES affect the way I test things, ie white polar bear coke cans which made it taste like icky diet coke). Shelf life seemed to very short once it reached ripeness. Perhaps I should have refrigerated at that point. Overall 7. When they are perfectly ripe they are very tasty, despite the color being more yellow than I'm used to. However, let them go a day or two past ripe, and they smell like vomit. Not sure if regular kiwis smell this way. Thank you for sharing your harvest with the public.
5. 10. I even tried one a bit too early and although tart it was tasty. Good sweet yet tart taste. Good texture too. Very exciting to have them growing here. Thanks for giving them to me. I shared them with friends and instructed them to also give you a rating. Thanks again. –
6. 10 on flavor, 8 on sweetness and I prefer to eat with skin.
7. 10. I loved them. It was sweet and just right.
8. 9. The flavor, aftertaste, texture was great. I'm not an expert on kiwi but I'd eat them again.
9. 9 I really enjoyed the kiwis.
10. 8.5. Delicious, sweet and I don't mind eating the skin at all. Great for traveling.
11. 9. They are delicious and juicy. They are not as visually striking as the store kind. XXX
12. 8. Hi thanks for the Kiwis. The skin taste a little funny but other than that it's good.
13. 9.5 Overall very good. Texture was very pleasant. Skin was delicious. Center of fruit was incredible. Excellent flavor. Kuddos to SFA!!!!
14. 9. Very tasty, especially in the center of the fruit. Melted in mouth. Ate three of them immediately!
- 15, 10. When I come for my volunteer time at the Head House tomorrow (Thursday) at 9 a.m., I will bring with me a Kiwi Lemon Pie that I made. George and I have thoroughly enjoyed the Kiwi we got last week. We've eaten them fresh with peel on, and also enjoyed them chopped up on our cereal with a few blueberries and vanilla yogurt. I didn't get enough of the fruit to do more

experimenting with jam, bread, cake, etc. We liked the firm texture. The just barely soft to the touch, the more green the fruit, and the tangier (I like sweet/tangy). The softer the fruit, the more yellow, the sweeter the taste. There was no aftertaste except for wanting more of this wonderful fruit. We rate the Kiwi a 10 on a scale of 1-10. We would definitely want to get more Kiwi! Thanks for sharing!

16. 10. Absolutely fantastic and congratulations on your kiwi harvest. These are the best kiwis I have ever tasted with just the right blend of sweet and very mild tartness (a lot less tartness than I am used to.. and that is a good thing). They have a full body flavor and very aromatic (almost tropical like guava) unlike what I have had in the past which has been just watery and tart. Kudos to you and your team and thank you so much for the wonderful giveaway. Like: 10. If possible, I would like to be put on the mailing list.

17. 10. They are delicious! Everyone I have had has been a 10. I love that their skin is so smooth and easily chewed. Thank you for sharing the harvest with the community!

18. 8.5. Not normally a kiwi fan. However, I found the Kiwi you gave me to be much less tart, and sweeter than the Kiwis sold in stores, with a slight hint of grape flavor.

19. 10. I picked up a couple of bags of kiwis on Friday and shared them with some family and friends. After they ripened and I tasted them, I regretted having been so generous! They're really good. I give them a 10. My brother-in-law sent me the following message and I agree with his evaluation. "Here is my feedback on the SFA kiwis. I want to grow some too! I think the texture is actually a little better than store-bought kiwis. The SFA kiwis are about the same firmness near the middle of the fruit but the outer part of the fruit doesn't mush quite as easily. The flavor isn't quite the same but it's very tasty, possibly a little sweeter, and still tastes like the kiwi we are used to eating."

20. 10. This is the best damn kiwi I ever ate. Has flavor, juicy, I would eat them again. If kiwis tasted like this from the store I would buy more.

21. 9. I would compare the taste to a strawberry, cantaloupe, champagne. Texture was cream.

22. 10. They were as good as any I've eaten. Letting them ripen carefully seemed to be the key. Less ripe seemed more tart. More ripe seemed most sweet and with the best texture.

23. 10. The kiwi ripened 3-5 days after being picked at SFA. They were tart but not sour, not too sweet, just sweet enough. I peeled most of them and froze

them to use in our morning smoothie since we could eat that many fresh. I would be very interested in planting some of these in my garden.

24. Kiwi are yummy. I'll score it an 8. They are a bit sour. I might have let them ripen too much. The texture is good and I think they have more flavor than store bought. No noticeable aftertaste. I'm not a huge kiwi fan but I like these, partly because I know they were grown here.

25. 10. Definitely a 10. Just enjoyed the wonderful kiwi. Great flavor – taking them to Dallas to share with our family this weekend! What a cool home grown treat. Not a fan of eating the skin but loved spooning it out. I think SFA is on to something.

26. 8. I am by no means an expert on kiwis. I rarely buy or eat them, for some reason. However I am thoroughly enjoying these. The first ones I tried were not ripe enough, but even so, they were good. Now that they are ripening they are much better. I am eating them with the skin on because i always think that the most nutritional way. Thank you for letting me try them. I have to say that I will definitely be more open to buying and eating kiwi in the future after this tasting experience.

27. 10. OMG. They are fabulous. So proud to know they're grown in Nacogdoches soil. Thank you for sharing.

Janet's reviews in Shreveport at Red River Wildlife Refuge, Bossier, La – no comments requested

28. 8 on flavor, 8 on acidity, 3 on sweetness, skin or no skin ok with me.

29. 6 on flavor, 8 on sweetness, prefer no skin

30. 8 on flavor, 7 on flavor, no skin

31. 7 on flavor, 8 on sweetness, eat with skin

32. 9 on flavor 9 on sweetness, prefer no skin

33. 9 on flavor, 8 on sweetness, eat with skin

34. 8 on flavor, 9.5 on sweetness, eat with skin

35. 7 on flavor, 8 on sweetness, eat with skin

36. 7 on flavor, 8 on sweetness, eat with skin or no skin

37. 7 on flavor, 7 on sweetness, eat with skin or no skin

38. 5.5. I do love kiwi and buy quite a few each year in the grocery store. The kiwi that were larger (2"+) had the best flavor. I found the smaller ones to be too irregular in color and too tart. I liked the smooth skin, it gave the fruit a more inviting appearance than those purchased in grocery stores. The texture of the fruits flesh was not as creamy as the grocery store variety and was not as sweet. The aftertaste was tart. I would rate them a 5-6. Keep up the good work. Your department makes Nacogdoches beautiful and healthy.

39. 10-, 10+, 8, and 9. We loved 'em. Some ripened by the next day and we think they are the best we've ever had. One of us gets itchy skin from kiwi skins and another just doesn't like the skin, but those of us who ate the skin like the less hairy. Juice, sweet and sour all that the same time. Thank you! We hope you will continue to grow these. Thank you.

40. 9. I really liked them. They were pretty and delicious. They also ripened quicker than I expected in a brown paper bag on the kitchen counter. So, I give them a 9! Let me know when you have more ready.
I absolutely LOVED the kiwi!

41. 10. I give the delicious fruit a 10+/10. The flavor was much fuller (sweet/with a slight tartness all wrapped up in one punch) than any I have tasted. I did enjoy the skin as well. The texture, especially skin, was nice and thin yet chewy but not so much that I wanted to discard it. I ate the whole thing! I didn't note an aftertaste – just fruity goodness!

EVALUATIONS BY GREG GRANT AT TAMU, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS – VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURISTS.

42. 9. Mellow, less tart than commercial green kiwi.

43. 8. Like the golden color. Best when fully ripe.

44. 8. Don't consider the skin edible (similar to a peach) and peeled to eat. Best when golden yellow and soft.

45. 8. Melting flesh.

46. 8. Banana cream. A slightly off taste like "vomit."

47. 10. Tart if not fully ripe.

48. 10. Delectable.

49. 8. Excellent when fully ripe.

50. 9. Thank you for the opportunity to taste the golden kiwi crop from SFA! I really like kiwi but I seldom indulge myself so this "taste test" was an unexpected pleasure. On a scale of 1-10, I would say I liked them a 9. The flavor was very good. There was a pleasant aftertaste. The texture was less firm but that was because of the skin. The skin seemed tougher than the green kiwi. Which means they were ripe before I could tell they were ripe. Therefore, the golden kiwi were past their peak when I ate most of them. The color was very interesting. The yellow still had a lot of green in it. The yellow-green color may not be appetizing to some people but they will provide a different color on the plate. Thank you once again.

51. 9. I really enjoyed the kiwis Janet dropped off at the refuge. Flavor: 9
Sweetness: 9. Skin was good.

52. 10. I got a few of your golden kiwis from the alumni office and I really enjoyed them. I am a big fruit and kiwi fan, so I have had quite a few from the grocery stores but I would have to rate them as a 10 on your 1-10 scale. I did not eat the skin but they were just ripe enough and very flavorful. Great crop! I hope this review helps,

53. 8. This about the Kiwi evaluation. I ate about 10 Kiwis and all are very good except the fact that it is bit yellow compare to regular green color. I would rate it as 8, indicating they are very good.

54. 10. I had a kiwi, and I would call it a 10. It was the best kiwi I have ever eaten. Thanks!

55. 9. I would rate it a 9. Thanks.