BLUEBERRY

Planting

If you like blueberries, plan on 2 blueberry plants per family member. If you want to enjoy frozen blueberries year-round plant about 4 blueberry plants per family member.

Plant Blueberries in well-drained soil with lots of organic materials. Space plants about 6ft apart and allow 8ft between rows. Plant with the top of the root mass just at the soil surface. Mulch with 3 to 4 inches of compost or bark mulch.

Feeding

Blueberries are fertilized when their leaf buds start to open, generally in spring. Blueberries need an acidic fertilizer that is balanced, a Rhododendron-type fertilizer will work perfectly. It is common practice in large-scale blueberry farms to use mulches like sawdust which are low grade and deplete the soil's nitrogen. If you're going use sawdust or bark mulch it is important to add a bit more nitrogen.

Pruning

Young blueberries should be lightly pruned to encourage a bushy upright spreading shape. As they age, thin long top and interior stems, tip thin branches to encourage a dense rounded shape. Older blueberries need to have old production branches removed to allow newer, more vigorous growth to come through.

Disease and Pest Control

Blueberries can have problems with leaf spot and stem canker. Scheduled sprays can help to reduce these diseases. The fruit is subject to botrytis and mummy berry, both of which can be controlled with a fungicide. Birds can become a problem eating berries, netting plants can reduce their consumption.

Please note that you need at least 2 different varieties of Blueberries to get fruit. In addition, they need to bloom at the same or close to the same time to ensure cross-pollination and create berries.

BLUEBERRY VARIETIES

Aurora – Late. Large, firm sweet-tangy berries on 5 to 6 ft tall and slightly wider shrub.

Blueberry Glaze – Mid Season. Small dark (almost black) berries have aromatic wild blueberry flavor. Their dark color makes them anti-oxidant powerhouses. Compact evergreen plant gets deep burgundy tones in winter. Grows 2-3 ft tall and wide making it an excellent container plant.

Bountiful – Mid-Late. Compact, semi-evergreen shrub produces a prolific crop of large super sweet berries. Even more productive when planted with "**Sunshine Blue"**.

Berkeley – Midseason, Late. One of the most popular varieties for home gardeners. A relatively large bush at 5-6ft tall and wide with powder blue mild tasting berries.

BLUEBERRY

Bluecrop – Midseason. Considered one of the best all-around varieties for its consistent yields, high quality fruit and relative disease resistance. Open and upright usually reaching 4-6 ft.

Bluegold – Midseason. Compact round habit, reaching 4ft. Berries are firm and flavorful in large easy to pick clusters. Sometimes referred to as the “mortgage lifter” because of its abundance of fruit on a small frame.

Bluejay - Early to mid. Large bush is heavy producer of medium sized mild, sweet berries. Very fast grower, with orange fall foliage and yellow winter wood.

Blueray – Midseason. An old favorite that is a heavy producer of large high-quality berries that are powder blue. An excellent dessert berry. Rosy pink flowers that turn white with age are an ornamental feature. Upright and open growth habit, generally 5ft with burgundy leaves in fall.

Bluetta – Very Early. Another very early ripening variety with medium dark blue berries that are tangy. It is more adaptable than Earliblue. It’s a very compact bush generally only reaching 3-4ft. A dense globe with scarlet red foliage in fall.

Brigitta – Late. Large light blue berries are firm and crisp, with the perfect balance of sweet and tart. Berries have an excellent shelf-life.

Chandler – Mid-to-Late. Giant fruit for blueberries and a long ripening season makes Chandler a great choice. Slightly spreading habit that reaches about 5-6ft tall.

Darrow – Late. Large blueberry that is light blue and robustly flavorful. Vigorous it generally reaches about 5-6ft at maturity.

Draper – Mid season. Large crops of crisp sweet light blue berries. One favorite at U-pick farms. Bluest of blue foliage. 4 to 6 ft tall and wide.

Duke – Early. Medium to large light blue berries with a mildly sweet flavor. Retains berry quality fresh longer than most. It is one of the most consistent and heaviest producers. Yellow-orange fall color.

Earliblue – Very Early. As the name denotes, they are the first to ripen. Produces large light blue sweet berries.

Elliott – Very Late. Extend your blueberry season with these late ripening berries. Sky blue berries can be quite tart unless picked when fully ripe.

Herbert – Late-Mid Season. Jumbo blue berries that are sweet and juicy with a firm texture. Self-pollinating but you can expect better crops if planted with another mid or late season variety. 4 to 6 ft tall and wide.

Ivanhoe – Mid Season. Large berries with an aromatic sweet- tart flavor. Great dessert quality fruit. Red fall foliage and red stems give this plant ornamental value as well.

Jelly Bean - Mid season. Dwarf shrub with bright green new foliage turning a rich green, edged red. Prolific sweet-as-jelly berries in summer. Great as a mini hedge or in containers. Grows into a round mound 1 to 2 ft tall and wide.

BLUEBERRY

Jersey – Late. Easy to grow, heavy producing variety that is an old favorite. One of the larger varieties reaching 7ft tall but tolerant of a variety of soil types. Dark blue berries are small to medium sized and very sweet, perfect for baking.

Legacy – Late. Keeps its leaves well into winter, unlike most varieties of blueberry. Vigorous, upright and slightly spreading usually maturing around 6ft tall. Medium to large light blue berries have a robust blueberry flavor. USDA top rated for flavor.

Northblue - Mid season. Large sweet-tart berries. Also, a great ornamental plant; fall foliage is flame red. 2 to 3 ft tall and wide.

Northland – Early-Mid. Compact (4 ft) shrub produces medium sized sweet dark blue berries that are great for jams and baking. Yellow/orange fall color.

Northcountry – Mid Season. Compact variety grows 2 to 3 ft tall and wide Abundant sweet berries great for eating fresh, baking and jams and jellies.

Olympia – Midseason. An easy to grow large spreading bush. Many people also believe it to be the best tasting varieties, with a pleasant aroma and spicy flavor. Medium sized dark berries are great for blueberry pancakes and muffins. Beautiful bright red fall color.

O'Neal – Very Early. Very sweet and firm large berries on a 4 to 6 ft shrub. Beautiful gray-green foliage turns orange to wine color in fall.

Patriot – Early. Consistent heavy bearing variety for colder areas. Berries are large dark and highly flavored. It is lower growing, reaching about 4ft and spreading. Patriot can tolerate wetter soils. Fiery orange foliage in fall.

Peach Sorbet – Mid Season. Beautiful compact shrub 1.5 ft to 2ft tall and wide. Foliage in shades of peach, pink orange and green turning rich eggplant purple in fall. Keeps its leaves most winters making this a great ornamental. Produces an abundant crop of sweet berries in summer.

Pink Champagne – Mid season. Effervescent, frosty pink, sweet berries are great for eating fresh or to drop in a glass of your favorite "bubbly". Great fall foliage.

Pink Lemonade – Mid season. Firm, hot pink berries are very sweet. Shrub has gorgeous orange red fall color and grows 5 ft tall and wide.

Reka – Early. Vigorous shrub to 5 ft tall and wide provides a bountiful crop of medium sized sweet crisp berries. Also, an outstanding ornamental shrub with red/burgundy fall color.

Rubel – Mid-Late. Popular since the early 1900's for its full-flavored small berries great for baking and jams. This berry is one of the highest in anti-oxidants and prized for its beautiful fire red fall color. 4 to 5 ft tall and wide.

Spartan – Early. Large, light blue berries with delicious tangy sweet flavors. An upright bush 5-6 ft tall. Yellow-orange fall color.

BLUEBERRY

Sunshine Blue – Midseason. This semi-dwarf variety is highly branched, compact and generally only reaches about 3ft tall. They also have hot pink flowers. Berries are small and tangy and are generally produced for up to two months. As it is self-pollinating you only need one bush to get delicious berries on patios and small lots. Generally only carried in container stock, not bare-root.

Sweetheart - Repeat crop. Bears good yields of medium -large sweet berries in the early season, and then again in the late season

Top Hat – This dwarf variety generally only reach about 1.5ft tall and wide. White blooms in spring yield pea-sized light blue berries. Generally only carried in container stock, not as bare-root.

Toro – Midseason. Stocky and compact stature like a bull with large sky-blue berries and hot-pink flowers. Bright red foliage in fall makes this blueberry especially ornamental.

BLUEBERRY CROSS-POLLINATION CHART

Though most northern highbush blueberries are self-fertile, please note that growing at least two different varieties of blueberries will result in better fruit production. In addition, those varieties need to have similar blooms times to cross-pollinate. Also, planting multiple cultivars that ripen at different times will lengthen the harvest season.

**Take care to not apply any pesticide, fungicide or herbicide products on or near blueberries when they are in bloom.

Cross-pollination improves berry size and yield.

Blueberry Harvest Times			
Early (late June-July):	**Mid:**	**Mid- to Late:**	**Late (August-Sept):**
Duke	Bluecrop	Berkeley	Coville
Earliblue	Bluejay	Bountiful Blue	Elliott
Ivanhoe	Blueray	Chandler	Jersey
Patriot	Pink Icing	Herbert	Legacy
Reka	Toro	Jelly Bean	Top Hat
Saphire Cascade		Midnight Cascade	
Spartan		Peach Sorbet	
		Perpetua	
		Pink Lemonade	
		Razz	
		Sweetheart	