

# Blueberries

Blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) are a great, native addition to any landscape. Not only do they produce delicious, anti-oxidant-rich berries during the summer months, but they also grow pretty, white bell-shaped flowers during spring months. The foliage has an excellent red-orange fall color as well.

## Soil Requirements

**Moist, sandy soils** are best suited for blueberries due to their shallow root structure.

A vital aspect to the soil is **maintaining the acidity of the soil with a pH between 4.0 and 5.0**. Not only will the blueberries thrive in these conditions, it will also help suppress weeds.

Soils **high in organic matter** provide nutrients and assist with acidifying the soil.

Mulching with **leaf compost, sawdust and/or peat moss** will improve the soil acidity and help build up organic matter.

Fertilizing with **organic sulfur or other acidic, slow-release granular** fertilizers at the start and middle of the growing season will promote growth for the rest of the year.

## Protect from wildlife!



Blueberries are delicious, which is probably one of the reasons you want to grow them! Unfortunately, most of the wildlife around your home thinks so too. We **strongly encourage** adding **fencing or netting** of adequate height around your blueberries.

## Light Requirements



For optimum yields, **all** blueberry varieties require **6+ hours** of direct sunlight in a day. Although some varieties are tolerant of 4+ hours of direct sunlight, yields will decrease or not occur under these conditions.

## How many plants are needed to produce fruit?



The majority of blueberry varieties we carry are **self-pollinating**, meaning only one plant is required to produce fruit. *However*, having **more than one** cultivar of the same species will **increase** yields. Additionally, many cultivars produce **fruit at different times of the season**, so with strategic planning, you could be harvesting blueberries from June to September! *Learn more on the next page.*

Once your blueberries are established, expect to harvest anywhere from **5-15 pounds** of fruit per year!



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The following is a chart estimating when highbush blueberries (*V. corymbosum*) are ready to harvest based on their cultivars. *Note: Weather conditions can affect the productivity and success of fruiting each year. As the roots establish themselves, fruit may take a year or two to occur after the initial planting.*

## Highbush Blueberry Fruiting Timeline

Cultivar	Month		
	June	July	August
Bluetta			
Earliblue			
Northland			
Blueray			
Collins			
Duke			
Patriot			
Peach Sorbet*			
Pink Icing			
Sky Dew Gold			
Bluecrop			
Berrybux			
Blue Jay			
Brunswick*			
Glaze			
Jelly Bean*			
Toro			
Perpetua**			
Berkeley			
Brigitta			
Chandler			
Herbert			
Liberty			
Polaris			
Aurora			
Elliott			
Jersey			

\*Lowbush blueberry (*V. angustifolium*) variety.  
\*\*Fruits twice per season

Ask any of our knowledgeable staff for more details on these cultivars!



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## Blueberry Varieties

### **Bluetta**

Ripe: Late-Spring

Great blueberry for containers and small spaces, only reaching 3-4' in height and width. Great, high yielding producer. Medium sized berries have a wild, yet sweet flavor with firm skin.

### **Earliblue**

Ripe: Late-Spring

One of the earliest varieties to market. Produces medium to large, light blue berries, full of flavor. Very easy to grow.

### **Northland**

Ripe: Late-Spring

Easy to grow and very adaptable. Once established, 'Northland' becomes outstandingly productive. Medium-sized berries have a nice sweet, fresh taste. Excellent for jams or baking due to its high sugar content.

### **Blueray**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

A classic and versatile favorite. Produces very large, quality berries with that sweet, fresh, traditional blueberry flavor. Great for desserts and fresh eating.

### **Collins**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

A popular shrub prized for its reliable yields of large, tasty fruit and pretty bell-shaped flowers. Bushy, upright, and fast growing, blueberries need highly acidic soil, perfect drainage and mulch.

### **Duke**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

Heavy, consistent producer. Produces large, firm, light blue, high quality berries with a savory, sweet flavor.

### **Patriot**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

Patriot has the reputation of being one of the best selections. Extremely high yielding, with a rounded shape. Large, firm berries with an excellent flavor.

### **Peach Sorbet**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

This compact blueberry is stunning with leaves that are peach, pink, orange, and emerald green. White bell-shaped flowers will appear in spring, leading to an abundant summer crop of sweet, tropical flavored blueberries. In most climates, this plant will keep its leaves throughout winter and turn a rich eggplant purple.

### **Pink Icing**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

In spring, the foliage has many shades of pink, mixed with blue and deep greens. The leaves turn a stunning iridescent turquoise-blue in winter. Plant this variety in the landscape for year-round color and beauty.



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## **Sky Dew Gold**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Early-Summer

Sky Dew™ Gold ornamental blueberry has such appealing bright gold foliage that the flowers and berries are almost an afterthought. Its display gets even more interesting as the summer nights start to cool, and the golden foliage starts taking on rich hues of orange and red.

## **Bluecrop**

Ripe: Late-Spring to Mid-Summer

A great variety all around due to its adaptability. Long production period of high-quality berries on an upright, open bush. Berries are large and crisp with that classic blueberry sweetness.

## **Berrybux**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

Its boxwood-like foliage and compact habit make it perfect for planting as a hedge or in groups in the garden. With the addition of white flowers that ripen into a dramatic display of wild and aromatic tasting berries, this variety is a treat unlike any other! It's easy to care for with very little pruning needed.

## **Blue Jay**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

Fast growing and easy to establish.

Long, loose clusters of crack resistant, light blue berries. Berries are delicately sweet, with high sugar content.

## **Brunswick**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

A great plant with a variety of uses in the landscape. A dense, low, spreading, compact plant that can tolerate a variety of conditions. Small pink bell-shaped flowers attract native bees and butterflies. Come summer the plant is covered with small, sweet, dark blue fruit. Excellent Red Fall Color.

## **Glaze**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

Glaze is good blueberry to grow in a pot or in the ground for smaller gardens. Not only do blueberries fruit prolifically, they have stunning early spring and late fall foliage color that rivals some Japanese maples. Blueberry Glaze has small, dense foliage that resembles Boxwood and can even be pruned in the same manner.

## **Jelly Bean**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

The foliage is unlike other blueberries and has unique, elongated, green leaves with highlights of red in cooler climates. Try a mini-hedge along a pathway, in the landscape or in decorative patio containers.

## **Toro**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

Produces excellent quality fruit. Berries are large and firm therefore easy to pick. Berries hang in large clusters, similar to grapes and have an excellent flavor for fresh eating.



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## **Perpetua**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

'Perpetua' will give you two crops of sweet and delicious blueberries! The first fruit will appear in mid-summer, and then the plant will flower and set fruit a second time in the fall. The leaves are dark green and will turn to deep reds and greens in the winter, making it a beautiful addition to any landscape.

## **Berkely**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

Vigorous and productive with an upright spreading habit. Berries are large and firm with a pale blue color. Berries have a sweet and pleasing flavor making them great for desserts and for freezing.

## **Brigitta**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

A high quality, medium-large berry with a perfect balance of sweet and slightly tangy. A reliable producer, with berries that have an amazing shelf life, known to remain crisp in the refrigerator for up to a month.

## **Chandler**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

Produces the largest blueberry out of any other varieties. Berries have an excellent full and robust flavor that will leave you wanting more.

## **Liberty**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

Liberty is a vigorous and productive variety that tends to grow more upright. Berries are consistently large and uniform, with a crisp, sweet flavor and an excellent shelf life.

## **Polaris**

Ripe: Mid to Late-Summer

Great blueberry for containers and small spaces, only reaching 3-4' in height and width. Compact but heavy producing variety. Very sweet and juicy, medium sized berries ripen early-mid season.

## **Aurora**

Ripe: Late-Summer

Medium-large powder-blue berries are firm, delicious and have a good shelf life.

## **Elliott**

Ripe: Late-Summer

Reliable producer and vigorous grower. Medium to large berries with a slightly tangy-zesty flavor but as the weather gets cooler berries become sweeter.

## **Jersey**

Ripe: Late-Summer

One of the oldest and widely grown varieties! Easy to grow and consistent producer. Berries are medium to small with a great sweet taste.



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## **Lowbush**

Ripe: Mid-Summer

A great plant with a variety of uses in the landscape. A dense, low, spreading, compact plant that can tolerate a variety of conditions. Small pink bell-shaped flowers attract native bees and butterflies. Come summer the plant is covered with small, sweet, dark blue fruit. Excellent red fall color.



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