



EDIBLE
GARDENING
SERIES

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Blueberries

Blueberries are considered one of the top ten super foods for their superior health benefits. They are also a beautiful addition to any landscape. Other than their fruit crop, most have vibrant fall & winter color. Depending on the cultivar mature bushes range from 18 inches to 10 feet. Blueberries have a hardiness ranging from -20°F to -40°F.

EXPOSURE

Full sun to part sun.

PLANTING

We recommend **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and **Bonide Root n Grow**. See our **Planting Guide** for more information. For most varieties we recommend planting the blueberry plants 3 to 4 feet apart. If you plant at least 3 or 4 different cultivars you can have varying ripening periods to extend harvest from late May through September. See our **Harvest Chart** for more information.

BLOOMING

Blueberries bloom April to early May. They have white to pinkish urn shaped flowers followed by tasty berries. Fruit development occurs 2 to 3 months after bloom, depending on weather, cultivar and plant vigor.

POLLINATION

Most blueberries need another variety of blueberries for berry production. Cross pollination increases fruit production for many cultivars, resulting in earlier ripening & larger fruit. Self-fertile varieties do not require another variety of blueberry to produce berries, but they do benefit if there is, achieving better production and bigger berries. One plant can pollinate up to 4 plants of another variety.

BERRY PRODUCTION

Blueberries start bearing between 4 and 5 years old. Young plants between 5 and 7 years old may bear 4 to 5 pounds per plant. A mature plant as many as 20 to 25 pounds per plant. Life expectancy can be unlimited with proper care.

BIRD CONTROL

Robins, starling, finches can strip ripening blueberries totally clean of fruit if plants are left unprotected. Drape bird netting over the bushes as the berries begin to turn blue.

HARVESTING

Extend late June through September. Fruit on each cultivar ripens over a 2 to 5 week period. When planting your blueberries choose 3 or 4 different varieties with different ripening times to extend harvest time (see our **Harvest Chart** for approximate times).

FERTILIZING

At leaf break with **Dr. Earth Rhododendron & Azalea Fertilizer** and again in June.

Please turn the page for more information. ➔



SPRAYING

Apply **Bonide All Season Spray Oil** and **copper** in the early spring before buds break. **Copper** and **Bonide All Season Spray Oil** need to be applied separately 2 weeks apart.

WATERING

Keep moist but not waterlogged. Lack of supplemental watering June to October severely limits successful production. Keep watering plants through August to ensure good fruit bud development for the following season's crop. Drought symptoms include reddened foliage, weak thin shoots and reduced fruit production. It is recommended 1 to 2 inches per week depending on soil type.

MULCHING

Apply 1 to 2 inches of **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost** or **Acid Planting Mix** to keep soil moist and to control weeds.

PRUNING

It is important to get your blueberry established before allowing it to produce berries. You will need to pick off the flowers the first year! Once your blueberry is established and the leaves have dropped remove low growth around the base, remove dead, non-vigorous, twiggly wood. It is also advisable to remove a quarter of the older canes (look for and leave the brightly colored canes).

CHECK LIST

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blueberry Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Ammonium Sulfate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Building Compost or Acid Planting Mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide All Season Spray Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide Copper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide Root n Grow | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Netting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Rhododendron Fertilizer | |