



BLUEBERRIES

Blueberries are divided into 3 classes by fruit ripening time:

Early Season: *Fruit ripens in early to mid June*

Mid Season: *Fruit ripens in mid July*

Late Season: *Fruit ripens from July into August*

PLANTING: Plant 3 feet apart for a hedge, 4 - 5 feet for shrubs. Plant 2 varieties for pollination. Strip flower buds when planting to encourage plant growth.

CULTURE: Well-drained soil is essential. Full to partial sun and acidic soil. Blueberries will also grow well in raised beds. Because of shallow roots, water frequently. Blueberries require one inch of rainfall per week and two inches when flowering. Add four to six inches of mulch around the base of each plant. Maintain this mulch layer every one to two years.

FERTILIZING: Two applications of a balanced fertilizer for acid loving plants. Apply the first dose in early spring when the buds begin to swell. One month later apply the second dose. Use one ounce of fertilizer for each plant (increase by one ounce each successive year).

PRUNING: Bushes do not need pruning the first 1-2 years. On older plants, pruning encourages larger fruit and facilitates air circulation which prevents disease. An ideal time to prune is in early spring when the bushes are still dormant. Blueberries produce fruit on one year-old wood which arises from four to six year old stems. To increase this type of growth head back the ends of twigs to the point where fruit buds are widely spaced. Remove some of the oldest branches to the ground each year. Low bush varieties such as 'Brunswick' and 'Top Hat' can be pruned by mowing back half of the plant every two to three years.

POLLINATION: High bush blueberries (the majority of the varieties here) are self fertile, but they will produce better and more reliable crops with another variety for pollination. Choose two or three varieties in the same or adjacent columns to ensure pollination and to extend the fruiting season.

VARIETY BLOOM TIME

EARLY	MID		LATE
BLUETTA	BLUECROP	HERBERT	AURORA
DUKE	BLUEGOLD	IVANHOE	BERKELEY
EARLIBLUE	BLUEJAY	NORTHBLUE	BRIGITTA
MISTY	BRUNSWICK	NORTHCOUNTRY	CHANDLER
PATRIOT	BLUERAY	NORTHLAND	COVILLE
POLARIS	BURGUNDY	NORTHSKY	DARROW
REKA	CHIPPEWA	SUNSHINE BLUE	ELLIOT
SPARTAN	DRAPER	TOP HAT	JERSEY
	HARDYBLUE	TORO	LEGACY
			LIBERTY
			RUBEL