



bluegrassblueberries.com

(270)432-5836

PLANTING & GENERAL CARE

Greetings and thank you once again for your purchase! When you receive your blueberry bushes, please note the different varieties. We recommend that you make a planting map of your blueberry patch for future reference. Your blueberry bushes have been packaged bare root and will arrive via USPS with moist roots. Remove your blueberry bushes from the packaging taking care not to damage the roots or plant stems. If your plants have been shipped during warmer weather or traveled a long transit, it may be helpful to re-hydrate the roots. Place the roots in cool water for 1 to 2 hours in a shaded area. If you need to hold the plants for a few days prior to planting, then pack the roots lightly in moistened peat moss commonly referred to as "healing in." Make sure the root system is completely covered with the damp peat moss and keep it moist until you have them planted. If you purchased potted blueberry bushes at our nursery, water them as soon as you get them home and place them in a partially shaded area until you are ready to plant.

If you have purchased bareroot plants smaller than 12- 18", it is recommended that they be potted in pre-mixed and moistened Spagnum Peat Moss and a Pine-based soil conditioner with a 1:1 ratio to gain growth in the root ball before installing them in the ground. Early Spring and Fall are the only seasons recommended to install a well-rooted plant in the ground.

POTTING A YOUNGER PLANT (4-8", 8-12" AND 12-18"): If you have purchased our one and two year old bareroot or plug plants, we recommend they be potted for further root growth. Just one Season of potted growth can make all the difference! Check out our video on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyTwBtE0Sp8> showing a one and two year plant being potted. We use a 1:1 ratio of moistened Spagnum Peat Moss and Potting Soil/Soil Conditioner for acid-loving plants (we use a pine- based mix). Water frequently and begin fertilizing in Early Spring and weekly or as your fertilizer label recommends throughout the growing Season. Do not fertilize while plants are dormant. For winter months, your potted blueberries can handle very cold temperatures. For extreme freezing winds, ice, etc., plants could be moved into a protected but NOT-HEATED area such as the side of a building, shed or carport.

SITE SELECTION: Blueberries prefer to be planted in a partially shaded area, but can also grow well in full sun. When planting blueberries that will be harvested by hand, the plants should be spaced 4-5 feet apart in rows, with rows spaced 12 feet apart. A mature highbush blueberry plant's size, on average, is 6 feet tall by 6 feet across. Blueberries require a soil PH of 4.5 to 5.5 OR soil that has been properly mineralized. You should test your soil prior to planting. **If you will approach your project just focusing on the acidity of the soil**, your local cooperative extension agency can help you get an accurate soil test, specific to blueberries for a reasonable cost. There are also many different PH testing probes and testing kits available for home gardeners.

If you will approach your project focusing on the spectrum of minerals, then we would suggest kinseyag.com for their print and mail soil submission program. Once your soil readings are received back, you may want to utilize the knowledge and recommendations of: Whitmar McConnel goldenmomentfarm@gmail.com 719-641-3859

If YOUR SOIL IS PREPARED: Dig a hole large enough to hold 2 or 3 gallons of wet peat moss/pine mixture. The in-ground hole should not be much deeper than the existing root system. Blueberry plants have a shallow root system that will grow more wide than deep. Mix the wet peat moss/pine half and half with the existing soil. This will give your plant an ideal soil to grow in and will lesson or eliminate transplant shock. When you are ready to plant, inspect the base of the plant right above the root system and notice the change in the stem between it and the root system; this is where you should make your soil line when planting. (It need not be exact, but close.) It is important to not bury the stem to deep. If you are planting a container grown plant, the soil line in the pot should also be level with the top of the soil line in the ground. You want to cover all the roots with soil

and at a slightly higher level than the ground as a small mound. After planting your blueberry plant, it is best to mulch around it. Hold the mulch back from the base of the bush about 4" to allow the base to breathe.

WATERING: Blueberries like moist, well drained soil. It is very important that you water your blueberry plants regularly, especially the first year. Water throughout the growing season. It is generally not necessary to water blueberry plants after they go dormant in the fall. Blueberry plants should be watered often, but over watering for extended periods of time may be harmful. A good rule of thumb is if the top inch is damp, you're okay.

MULCHING: Blueberry plants like to be mulched with just about any type of organic matter. Mulch your plants with 2 -4 inches of wood chips, pine bark mulch or needles, peat moss, saw-dust, or decomposed leaves to help retain moisture. Hold the mulch back from the base of the bush from 2-4". The base of the plant emerging from the soil should never be covered with mulch. It is very important for it to breathe.

FERTILIZING: Blueberry plants should thrive within a good fertilizing program. They are acid loving plants, so generally any fertilizer recommended for rhododendrons or azaleas will work well. For a home-owner patch, we often recommend feeding with a product such as Miracle-Grow for Acid Loving Plants. If you are an organic gardener, or have a large blueberry project, we recommend our current program using Monty's Plant Food (<http://www.montysplantfood.com/>) We would be happy to send you our current treatment schedule at your request. Email requests to blueberrynurseryky@gmail.com.

PRUNING: Pruning can be necessary to remove dead or broken stems as your plants grow. As your blueberry bushes mature, annual pruning to remove the oldest canes will increase your plants vigor and help them stay productive. Pruning blueberry plants encourages new growth. Each cane reaches it's optimal fruit production when it is 3 to 5 years old. Starting when the plants are around seven years old, you should start taking out 1 to 3 of the oldest canes per year. Generally, a mature blueberry bush can be pruned back 15% without decreasing the quantity of fruit you harvest, while maintaining the longevity of the plant. Pruning can be done any-time after the fruit harvest and throughout the fall and winter.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Blueberry plants are shallow rooted & should not be tilled. Keep the area around the bushes mulched and mowed for attractive appearance, ease of picking, and weed control. Blueberry plants are attractive plants with beautiful bell shaped flowers in the spring that turn into large clusters of delicious blueberries in June and July. They have bright green foliage in the summer that turns to brilliant shades of orange and red in the fall. They make nice hedges, landscape groups, and backyard gardens. They are highly profitable for commercial growers and take 5 to 7 years after planting to reach full production.

PLANT POLICY

Customer satisfaction is our priority! Bluegrass Blueberries strives to provide quality blueberry plants. We are a licensed, inspected, disease-free nursery. We sell high quality, well rooted, healthy blueberry bushes. Therefore, all sales are final. On rare occasion, it is possible for plants to become damaged in shipping or in the delivery process. If this occurs, please contact us within the first 24 hours of receiving your shipment. We will then evaluate the condition as best as we can and make a determination as to replacement. The most common cause of a blueberry plant not thriving or surviving is incorrect pH of the soil or lack of adequate water. We gladly give advice and direction and do our best to guide you through the planting and growing of happy, healthy blueberry plants. However, a grower cannot be held responsible for the condition of stock once it has been in the customer's care. Please visit the "Tips and Helps" page of our website (www.bluegrassblueberries.com) for Planting and General Care information. All plants are subject to crop failure and damage due to natural causes. Since our nursery has no control over the care and handling that the plants receive after leaving our care, Bluegrass Blueberries gives no warranty expressed or implied as to the growth or productivity and will not in any way be responsible for the results of planting.

EXPORTING

Once all criteria have been met by Bluegrass Blueberries prescribed by the importing agency, Bluegrass Blueberries assumes no responsibility for damage, holding, or restricted deliveries of the product by the state or country and sales are considered final and subject to the same plant policy as stated above.