



bluegrassblueberries.com

(270) 432-5836

PLANTING & GENERAL CARE

Thank you for your purchase! When you receive your fruiting plants please note the different varieties. We recommend that you make a planting map of your berry patch for future reference. Your plants have been packaged bare root and will arrive via UPS or USPS with moist roots. Remove your plants from the packaging taking care not to damage the roots or plant stems. Place the roots in cool water for a few minutes in a shaded area. If your not ready to plant in the ground then pack the blueberry plant roots lightly in moistened peat moss. If your dealing with other berry plants use outdoor gardening soil and cover roots with the soil. Make sure the root system is completely covered with the damp soil until you have them planted. Please see our instructive video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3pWMBzJDFQ>.

Blueberry plants smaller than 12- 18" should be potted in pre-mixed and moistened Spagnum Peat Moss and Pine Bark to gain growth in the root ball before installing them in the ground. Early Spring and Fall are the only seasons recommended to plant in the ground. Below is our advice, however there are a variety of methods and techniques depending on your area. It is recommend to also contact your local agricultural extension office for advice.

SITE SELECTION: Berry Plants will fruit best in full sun, but will also thrive in partial shade.

Blueberry plants can be spaced 4-5 feet apart in rows, with rows spaced 10-12 feet apart. A mature highbush blueberry plant's size is generally 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide. Blueberries thrive with a soil **PH of 4.2 to 5.2** or well composted or mineralized soil.

Thornless Blackberry Plants can be planted 5-6 feet apart, with rows spaced 10-12 feet apart.

Raspberries can be planted 2-3 feet apart, with rows spaced 10 feet apart.

Grapes can be planted 8 feet apart, with rows spaced 8-10 feet apart.

Blackberries, Raspberries and Grapes should thrive with a **PH of 5.5-6.5**.

You should test your soil prior to planting. Your local cooperative extension agency can help you get an accurate soil test, plant specific for a reasonable cost. There are also many different PH testing probes and testing kits available for home gardeners.

HOW TO PLANT IF YOUR SOIL IS PREPARED: For **Blueberry Plants** Dig a hole plenty wide, but not deep. The roots spread out rather than down. Make sure hole is large enough to hold at least 2-3 gallons of wet peat moss/pine bark mixture. Mix the wet peat moss/pine half and half with the existing soil, as this will will lessen or eliminate transplant shock. With Blueberry Plants it is important to not bury the stem too deep. When 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.

For **Blackberry, Raspberry, and grape** plants dig a hole large enough to cover all roots. It is also good to bury the stem 2 inches above where the highest roots are. Tilling the row and mixing outdoor garden soil with existing soil will help encourage root growth.

WATERING: Berry plants like moist, well drained soil. It is very important that you water your fruiting plants regularly, especially the first year. Water throughout the growing season. It is generally not necessary to water plants after they go dormant in the fall. Berry 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: Berry 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, or decomposed leaves to help retain moisture. Hold the mulch back from the base of blueberry bushes 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, "Holy-tone" is an organic granular fertilizer you can purchase at lowes or home depot. It is well suited for blueberries. For **Blackberry, raspberry, and grape** plants all purpose or general purpose fertilizers generally work well. "Plant Tone" is an organic granular fertilizer you can purchase at lowes or home depot that will work well for the blackberries, raspberries, and grapes. If you have a local Fertrell dealer near you, they also have many good organic fertilizers to use.

PRUNING: 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. 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. Best Pruning time is Late winter.

For **thornless blackberries** and **black raspberries** it is best to cut back the first year of growth at 2 feet. This will encourage lateral branching. The second year, the new growth should be trimmed back at 4-5 feet of growth. After harvest, old vines that have produced fruit should be removed.

For **Raspberries**(that are not everybearing) cut at base of stem after the plant has given fruit.

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 berry plants not thriving or surviving is incorrect pH of the soil, lack of adequate water, or lack of fertilizer. We gladly give advice and direction and do our best to guide you through the planting and growing of happy, healthy berry plants. However, we 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.

Contact us at (270) 432-5836 or blueberrynurseryky@gmail.com