

Blueberries

Sun exposure: Full sun

Soil: Acidic soil - a pH range of 4.2-4.5 is required

Planting: To produce fruit, blueberries must cross-pollinate. Plant at least two bushes within a 3'-5' area. Prepare the planting site with a hole twice the size of the root ball and plant the bush to the same depth as in the grower's pot. Add a generous amount of acid soil conditioner or peat to the top 1/3 of the hole. Place the soil firmly around the roots.

Fertilizing: Fertilize twice in spring, using an acidic fertilizer.

Watering: Keep the soil consistently moist. Blueberries need plenty of water, but don't like to sit in water.

Harvesting: When fruit begins to ripen, place netting over your plant as a deterrent to birds and other animals. Harvest the fruit when the berries are a deep blue color (they will practically fall off the bush and into your palm).

Winter care: Prune back dead growth in late fall or winter. If the plant has a northern exposure, burlap the bush to provide it with some protection.