

GROWING Highbush Blueberries

POLLINATION: Two or more varieties is best for a longer harvest season and higher yield, however blueberry growers get large crops in a single variety block. You can successfully grow a single blueberry bush in your garden.

SUN OR SHADE: Full sun. Will fruit in part shade, but not as well.

PLANT SPACING: Spacing, same distance as the height of the plant.

METHOD OF PROPAGATION: Softwood cuttings (hard to root)

LIFE EXPECTANCY: 60+ years

YIELD: 5-15 pounds per plant.

HOW TO GROW

SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Acid soil, pH of 4 to 5, light and well drained, but can tolerate wet feet in winter.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS: Blueberries are shallow rooted. Do not cultivate deeply around the plants. Peat is an excellent addition to the soil and makes good mulch too. They need to be well watered the first summer and thereafter will need some moisture in arid summers. Light surface application of organic fertilizer or ammonium sulfate in the spring is beneficial. ("rhodie/azalea" food is perfect)

PRUNING: Pruning is required on older branches. Renew to new shoots.

HOW TO USE

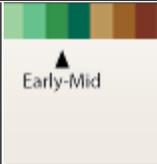
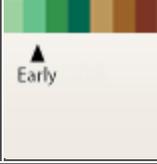
IN THE LANDSCAPE: Great for edible landscaping because of their continuously varied and beautiful appearance. Bronze new growth in spring is followed by pink-white urn shaped flowers. In summer the green leaves contrast with the blue berries. The leaves turn bright red or yellow in the fall. When the leaves drop, you can see the bright colored yellow or red branches. They can be used for hedges, screens, foundation plantings, accent shrubs, and espaliers.

IN THE KITCHEN: They can be eaten raw or used in pancakes, syrups, muffins, jams, soufflés, and pies. (Quiet, don't tell anyone...put them in bags in the freezer. Then pull out a bag when no one is looking and eat the individual berries half frozen. You can polish off a bag in no time. Blueberries, unlike other berries, don't stick together upon freezing.)



Ambergardens BLUEBERRY VARIETIES - NORTHERN HIGH BUSH

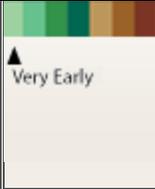
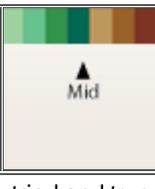
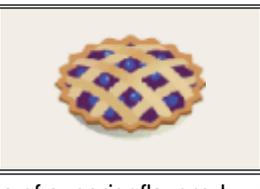
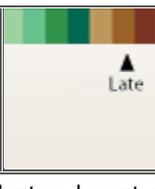
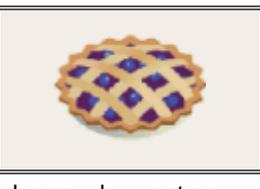
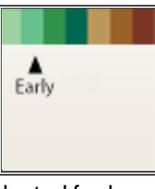
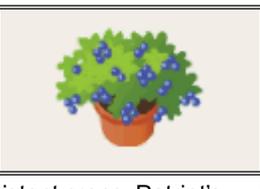
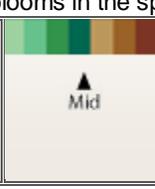
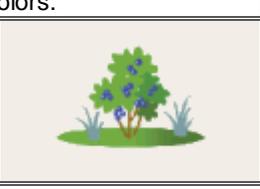
(INFO FROM FALL CREEK NURSERY)

Variety	Zone	Fruit			Bush Habit		Outstanding Characteristic
		Season	Size	Flavor	Mature Size & Shape	Fall Color	
Bluecrop Photos	Zone 4-7	 Mid	 L	Classic, Sweet	4-6 Ft, Open, Upright	 Red	
Bluecrop is considered the best all-around variety for adaptability, long production period, high yield fruit and disease resistance. There are other varieties with better ornamental value but few perform better in the garden. Bluecrop is perhaps the most widely planted variety in the U.S.							
Bluejay Photos	Zone 4-7	 Early-Mid	 M	Delicately Sweet	6-7 Ft, Upright	 Orange, Yellow	
Bluejay grows rapidly and is relatively easy to establish and looks great in the landscape. Long, loose clusters of light blue fruit will hang on the bush for long periods without loss of quality, making it one of the best berries for freezing, pies, and even for canning. Light green colored leaves in summer precede bright yellow canes and branches in winter.							
Blueray Photos	Zone 3-7	 Mid	 VL	Classic, Fresh	4-6 Ft, Open, Upright	 Bright Red, Yellow	
An old favorite and versatile variety, Blueray performs particularly well in areas with hot summers or very cold winters, and produces high quality berries with outstanding dessert flavor. The stunning rosy pink flowers turn bright white when in full bloom.							
Chandler Photos	Zone 4-7	 Mid-Late	 G	Full, Robust	5-7 F, Slightly Spreading	 Wine, Orange	
Chandler holds the distinction of being the world's largest blueberry. The long ripening season will provide gardeners with a bounty of flavorful, fresh picked fruit for up to six weeks. Eaten by the handful or presented with a specialty dessert, Chandler will be a favorite.							
Duke Photos	Zone 4-7	 Early	 L	Savory, Sweet	4-6 Ft, Stocky, Upright	 Orange, Yellow	
Duke is the most widely planted early ripening northern variety and for good reason. It is a heavy, consistent producer with an attractive, firm, light blue, high quality berry. Duke blooms late but ripens early which protects the blossoms from spring frosts. Branches may droop to the ground when laden with fruit, prompting many gardeners to use a simple trellis as support.							



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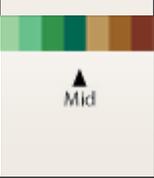
(INFO FROM FALL CREEK NURSERY)

Variety	Zone	Fruit			Bush Habit		Outstanding Characteristic
		Season	Size	Flavor	Mature Size & Shape	Fall Color	
Earliblue Photos	Zone 5-7	 Very Early	 M-L	Sweet & Juicy	4-6 Ft, Upright	 Red, Burgundy	
First to ripen and early to bloom, this upright bush produces stout canes with bright red wood, while displaying large glossy green leaves in the summer and brilliant mixed red colors in the fall. Berries are light blue and large in size. Plant where blueberries are well suited and avoid frost pockets.							
Hardyblue Photos	Zone 4-7	 Mid	 M	Aromatic, Very Sweet	4-6 Ft, Upright	 Bright Red	
Hardyblue is a tried and true variety in the Pacific Northwest that is known for heavy crops of superior flavored, sweet berries. The dark blue fruit is perfect for muffins and pancakes. Hardyblue has a reputation for being adaptable to many soil types, including heavier clay soils. The dark red wood is striking in a winter landscape.							
Jersey Photos	Zone 4-7	 Late	 M	Lush, Sweet	6-8 Ft, Upright	 Orange Flame	
One of the oldest and most widely grown of all varieties, Jersey is a favorite for home gardeners who want an easy to grow bush. Jersey produces late season crops year after year. This bush tolerates a wide range of soil types, and the small to medium sized, sweet tasting fruit is a favorite for baking.							
Patriot Photos	Zone 3-7	 Early	 L	Delicately Sweet	3-5 Ft, Open, Spreading	 Fiery Red, Yellow, Orange	
Patriot was selected for home gardeners who desire a cold-hardy variety that bears consistent crops. Patriot's low growing bush reflects its partial lowbush parentage. It is adaptable to many soil types and may perform better in wetter soils than many other varieties. Patriot makes an excellent container and landscape variety with its showy white blooms in the spring, dark green summer foliage, and fiery orange-red fall colors.							
Toro Photos	Zone 4-7	 Mid	 L	Mildly Sweet	4-6 Ft, Stocky, Upright	 Crimson Red, Yellow	
Toro continues to amaze us with it's easy to pick berries that hang like grapes from the stocky bush. While not as fast a grower as some of the other varieties, Toro has outstanding ornamental qualities. The flowers turn from hot pink to bright white and contrast nicely with the bronze colored spring foliage. Deep green summer foliage turns to the brightest of reds in the fall.							



Ambergardens BLUEBERRY VARIETIES - OTHER

(INFO FROM FALL CREEK NURSERY)

Variety	Zone	Fruit			Bush Habit		Outstanding Characteristic
		Season	Size	Flavor	Mature Size & Shape	Fall Color	
HALF HIGH Northblue	Zone 3-7	 Mid	 M	Juicy, Wild	3-4 Ft, Open, Upright	 Red, Burgundy	
Northblue is a great landscape plant and proven producer of quality fruit in cold climates. The fruit has a “wild” taste that makes it excellent for baking or fresh eating. Northblue has survived winter temperatures to minus 35°F, although production is maximized when snow protection is adequate. Recommended for those desiring a higher yielding, cold-hardy variety.							
SOUTHERN HIGH BUSH Sunshine Blue Photos	150 Chill Hours, Zone 5-10	 Mid-Late	 M	Rich, Sweet	3 Ft, Compact, Upright	 Blue Green, Burgundy	
For gardens from San Diego to Seattle, Sunshine Blue has it all. This semi-dwarf, versatile evergreen blueberry features showy hot pink flowers that fade to white in spring, yielding large crops of delicious berries. Sunshine Blue tolerates higher pH soils better than many other blueberries and it is self-pollinizing. The low chilling requirement of 150 hours makes it suitable for Southern California, but we find it is surprisingly cold-hardy and a wonderful addition to our patios and gardens here in the Pacific Northwest.							

