



Growing Blueberries



The blueberry plants will arrive in 1-liter pots as dormant, bare-root transplants. Plant them as soon as possible upon receipt. If you cannot plant your blueberries right away, store them at 32°F-40°F and keep the root ball damp.

Preparation & Planting

- Blueberries differ from other common food crops in that they thrive in more acidic soils. It is best to choose a full sun location, and have your soil tested prior so you can amend to make the soil more acidic. To help you acidify the soil, you will be given a bag of elemental sulfur to use along with your blueberries. Blueberries will perform best in soil with a pH of 4.5-4.8.
- Blueberries are partially self-sterile. While they will fruit if planted alone, we have provided two different blueberry varieties called Jersey & Duke to optimize both the harvest window of the fruits and their ability to produce higher yields. They should be planted about 4-5 feet apart.
- To plant your blueberries, dig a 1ftx1ftx1ft hole for each plant. Mix the soil you removed to make the hole organic matter like peat or wood chips and ½ of the elemental sulfur you were given. Mix it very well. Place the blueberry plant in the hole slightly below the soil line and refill the hole with your soil mixture. Water the plant thoroughly and throughout the season. Blueberries do best with 1-2" of water or rain weekly.
- Add a several inch thick layer of mulch around your blueberry plants of salt-hay or wood chips.

Maintaining Blueberries

- A few weeks after planting, amend your blueberries with some balanced fertilizer or compost. In the following years, amend around the time of flowering.
- The first two years of caring for your blueberries will be more labor-intensive than subsequent years. As the blueberry plants are establishing themselves, remove all flowers from the plants. The blueberries should not be allowed to fruit in their first two years. This encourages more abundant future harvests in the next 6-10 years.
- Once the plants are well established (years 3 & 4), they will require annual pruning. Prune the plants while they are dormant between January and March.
- Prune out: Canes older than 6 years, any weak, diseased, or damaged canes, any weak, low fruiting branches on canes
- Keep: The most vigorous canes between 1-5 years old
- Consider: If cane growth has been sparse, cut back older canes but leave a 6-8 inch stub for regrowth
- Pests: Birds and city critters will likely be a nuisance for your blueberry crops. When you see the very first fruits starting to form in years 3 onward, cover the plants with fine netting and secure the netting on the ground to exclude these pests.

KEY POINTS:

- 2026 Varieties: Jersey & Duke
- Bare root plants should be planted ASAP in soil that is acidified by the included elemental sulfur.



- The blueberries should not be allowed to fruit in their first two years. Remove all flowers from the plants in these first two seasons.
- Did You Know? New Jersey, specifically our Philadelphia neighbor, Hammonton, is known as the blueberry capital of the world. Wild blueberries were first domesticated for commercial production in Hammonton and the state regularly ranks in the Top 3 for national blueberry production.