



# Successful Blueberries

## Winter Chill

There are 2 distinct varieties, Northern Highbush (NH) and Southern Highbush (SH). NH berries tend to be deciduous and require colder winter climates. Bluecrop is the most widely planted in both home gardens and on farms. SH tend to be semievergreen and require fewer chill hours. SH berries are the predominant choice in mild San Francisco although many NH varieties will still set fruit.

### Early flowering SH varieties will ripen fruit in May/June

Misty, O'Neal, Sharpblue

### Mid flowering SH varieties will ripen with fruit in June

Jubilee, Southmoon, Sunshine Blue, Emerald

### Early flowering NH varieties will ripen with fruit in June/July

Bluejay, Earliblue, Patriot, Reka

### Mid flowering NH varieties ripen fruit in July

Bluecrop, Bluejay, Blueray, Hardyblue, Draper, Chandler, Berkeley

### Late flowering NH varieties ripen fruit in July/August

Chandler, Elliott, Jersey, Legacy

## Pollination

While most blueberries are self-fruitful, they will produce larger fruit and more abundantly if 2 cultivars in the same flowering period are planted together. NH should be planted with NH and SH with SH. The same effect is not seen in SH:NH pairings.

## Acidity

Blueberries require an acid soil and a regular feeding plan. Amend soil or use alone in containers, EB Stone Azalea, Camilia & Acid Mix. Supplement with F.S.T. or Iron Tone (acidifying agents containing the nutrients iron, sulfur, manganese, and zinc) in early spring and again in late summer. Feed plants monthly once they have leafed out with Maxsea Acid formula or EB Stone Azalea/Camellia Food.

## Water

Water regularly. Blueberries are not drought tolerant. Soil should always be moist.

## Exposure

Blueberries want full to part sun.

## Spacing

In the ground, space plants 3' apart if creating a hedge, allow 4' to 5' for free-standing shrubs. Planters should be a minimum of 18" for individual plants. A wine barrel will accommodate 2 or 3 plants comfortably.

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