

Blueberry

Cyanococcus



General Information

- Edible berry plant
- Sun Exposure: Full sun, but partial shade later in the day. Blueberries actually need some cold weather to be able to grow well.
- Water needs: Moderate, keep soil moist but not soggy
- Cold Tolerance: Varies depending on which type of blueberry plant is used, but most types from highbush, mid-bush, to low bush can tolerate up to -20 F.
- Days to harvest: After planting, it may take 3 to 4 years until blueberries are ready to have harvestable fruits.
- Harvest season: Summer to early fall, around June to August. Blueberries should fall right onto your hand once they are fully ripe.

Planting Guide

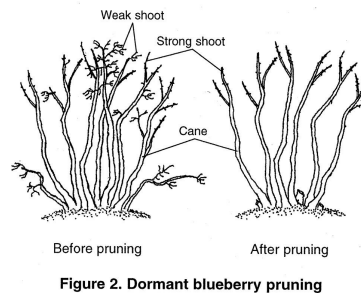
- Propagating hardwood blueberry cuttings:
 - Having access to some hardwood cuttings is the first step in growing your own blueberry plant!
 - When choosing cuttings, make sure to get them during the dormant season of the plant, which depends on how long your region's winters are. In California, where we get shorter winters, the best time to get your cuttings is probably between December and March. Get them between early winter and early spring.
 - In addition, pick out younger cuttings, since old cuttings are harder to propagate.
 - Step by step:



1. Plant cuttings 2 inches deep into soil, or if short, $\frac{1}{3}$ of their total length. When initially planting, keep the cuttings in a sheltered area to prevent damage from winter frost.
 2. With moist soil, cuttings should be able to root by themselves without any issue after 3 to 4 months. After those months, the plant can be safely moved to a permanent location.
 3. After that, treat the new blueberry plants as a regular plant, and wait approximately 2.5 years for the start of pruning!
- Planting Specifics:
 - When deciding on a specific permanent spot for your blueberry plant, choose:
 - An area with an acidity of around pH 4.0 to 5.0
 - A sunny area without too much shade from trees
 - The time of year to be late April or early May
 - Mulch that is acidic like sawdust to use after planting
 - There is no need for any extra support or staking for blueberry plants

Care Guide

- Pruning: Initial tips
 - After initial planting, do not prune blueberries for the first 2 to 3 years other than to remove damaged canes (flexible jointed stem)
 - When pruning during year 3, make sure to disinfect all pruning equipment when moving from one blueberry plant to another as to avoid the spread of disease. Do this by dipping your tools in 10% bleach solution, or just use bleach spray/wipes on them.
 - Each year's berry crop is formed in the summer and autumn, so in order to keep them safe as they grow, make sure to use some hairy or heavy foliage around blueberries if the area you live in is high susceptible to deer.
 - That being said, it's best to prune blueberries during the winter to early spring, after the last frost has ended, so from **January** to **March**.
 - Step by step pruning:
 1. Cut off the dead and damaged branches, leaving no stump behind as it may be a gateway for disease.
 2. Cut off any branches that touch or cross each other all the way to the base of the plant.
 3. For younger blueberry plants, cut a third of the branches all the way down to the ground, while choosing to cut old and dead branches first. This will help new canes grow. For older blueberry plants, cut half of all branches all the way down to the ground, also prioritizing older canes.



- After pruning:
 - Add some acid-specific organic granular fertilizer like HollyTone

Sources:

<https://savvygardening.com/pruning-blueberries/>

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/fruit/care-blueberry.cfm#:~:text=Water%20blueberry%20plants%20during%20the,to%20a%20depth%20of%201%22.>

<https://practicalselfreliance.com/propagating-blueberries/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/fruit/growing-blueberries-home-garden>