



Promoting Native Plants since 2003 Certified Women Owned Business Enterprise

HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRIES

The berries of the native blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, are relished by songbirds, game birds, bear, and small mammals. Because of their food value and spectacular red fall foliage, these shrubs are excellent for ornamental or naturalized landscaping. They also support a wide range of butterflies and pollinators.

This deciduous shrub (6'-12' high) occurs naturally in swamps, bogs, dry barrens and oak woods from Maine to Texas. Reddish-green spring leaves turn blue-green in summer and red, yellow, orange and purple in fall. White or pink bell-shaped flowers in drooping clusters are followed by edible, blue fruit.

Highbush Blueberries are recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees.

SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR BLUBERRIES

- Acidic soil pH 4.5. to 5.5 . Don't guess – soil test!
- Soil rich in organic matter. Will not grow in clay.
 - Full sun, protection from harsh winter wind.
- Constant moisture and good drainage. Do not grow in standing water or poorly drained areas.
- A light layer of organic mulch is helpful. Do not place mulch directly against the stems.

PRUNING BLUEBERRIES

If desired, prune out flower buds first year, so plant energy goes towards root growth. If you are growing for wildlife or ornamental value, pruning is not critical. If you are growing for berry production, please consult references such as <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/fphg/blueberries/pruning>

POLLINATION

Blueberries are self-fertile, but cross-pollination will produce larger berries and larger yields. Most plantings will produce satisfactory crops when only one variety is included. Make sure there is good bee activity. Plant pollinator plants nearby.

--more information on reverse side --

2415 Route 100 Orefield PA 18069
www.EdgeOfTheWoodsNursery.com

VARIETIES

The straight species (*Vaccinium corymbosum* -- with no other name following such as Jersey, Duke, Blue Ray, etc.) will bloom and set berries through the season.

The following cultivars have been selected out for particular characteristics. The information is taken from <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/fphg/blueberries/variety-selection>. Information listed is for varieties we may have. We do not have all varieties at all times.

Early Mid-season

Blueray: Plant is vigorous and propagates easily. Fruit is borne on small, tight clusters and canes tend to bend over. Tight clusters can cause berries to drop, especially in hot weather. Berries are large, dark blue, and firm, with good flavor. Consistently productive, but may overproduce if not pruned properly. Upright spreading habit; very hardy.

Collins: Susceptible to winter injury. Bush is vigorous and upright with some spreading canes. May not sucker freely. Fruit is large, firm, light blue, and has very good flavor. Has narrow soil adaptation and produces only moderately.

Duke: A vigorous, upright bush bearing medium-sized, light-blue, firm fruit with a small dry scar. Blooms late, avoiding early frosts, but ripens relatively early. Plant has numerous canes that are stocky and moderately branched. Buds and wood tolerate fluctuating winter temperatures well. Harvest can be completed in two or three pickings. Flavor is mild and sweet. This variety is performing well in a number of locations.

Patriot: Plant is upright and vigorous, though only small to medium in height. Fruit is large and firm and has excellent flavor. Fruit must be completely ripe to have good flavor. Though hardy during the winter, this variety blooms early and is subject to frost. Developed in Maine and has excellent cold hardiness. Plants resistant to root rot.

Mid-season

Bluecrop: Best mid-season variety presently available; bush is vigorous and upright, but canes tend to be slender and whippy. Fruit is medium in size and numerous with, good flavor. Variety has shown consistently high production and good winter hardiness; season tends to be prolonged. Berries appear to be ripe (completely blue) well before full sweetness is achieved, so they need to be picked 5 to 7 days after the full blue color is present.

Northland: Fruit is soft and of average quality, so it tends not to store well. Plants are bushy. Consistently productive.

Chippewa: A cold-hardy release from Minnesota (half-high). Compact bushes with medium to large, light-blue, firm, sweet fruit. For trial in areas where cold tolerance is needed.

Darrow: Very large fruit on vigorous, upright plants. Fruit is firm with excellent flavor, but can be slightly acidic.

Herbert: An older variety that is a favorite among home gardeners. Fruit is sweet and huge. Skin of the berry tends to tear when picked, however, which increases its susceptibility to fruit rots if not used quickly.

Late Season

Elliott: Last to fruit of all standard varieties. Bush is vigorous and upright; plants very productive, hardy, and resistant to mummy berry disease. Berry is medium and light blue, with firm flesh and only fair flavor. Late small fruit can be tart, and berry can be fully blue when not fully ripe, so fruit should be allowed to remain on bush after coloring. Interplanting with another late-blooming variety has provided cross-pollination and improved size and flavor. Stores well.

Jersey: Bush is vigorous and erect with open fruit clusters. Medium-sized, firm fruit with good color and fair flavor. May have fruit set problems; tends to set fruit without undergoing pollination, so fruit does not size. Considered by some to have sweetest flavor.

Seven Reasons to Buy Native Plants at Edge of the Woods

- All plants are nursery propagated. We do not deplete natural populations by collecting from the wild.
- Our staff is highly educated and knowledgeable. We know native plants and their life cycles. We've worked with them in gardens and landscapes for many years. The nursery has accurate and informative signage and literature to help you learn about native plants.
- We focus on the roots of the plant. Leaves come and go. Strong roots are needed for good establishment.
- We offer genetically diverse crops, and local genotypes whenever possible.
- We do not use artificial growth hormones.
- We use a minimal amount of pesticides. Our plants may have leaves that have been eaten --this means they are doing their job in the ecosystem