



Blueberry Fact Sheet

Everyone loves blueberries!

To grow them well does require an understanding of what blueberries like...
Site selection - Select a site that has full sun most of the day for best results. For climates with high summer temperatures with multiple days over 36 degrees ensure plants receive shade from the afternoon sun and horrible westerly winds. Blueberries also grow really very well in pots where you have more control over the pH, fertiliser levels and aeration.

The pH story

If the pH of your soil or potting mix is not below about 5.5 (that is really quite acidic) you will not be able to grow blueberries well. They might do ok for a few weeks but slowly but surely yellowing will occur and the root system will just not take hold and will die. Sounds like bad news but you can get around this by growing in pots in areas that do not have a low pH. If your soil pH is around 6 you could lower the pH will the addition of a generous dose of peat moss or coir fibre as compost dug into the garden bds. Apply an acidifying fertiliser regularly (such as those used for Camellias and Azaleas and the pH should be fine.



Potting mix

Potting media should be 50% coarse pine bark (10mm-25mm in size) and 50% of a premium quality Camellia/ Azalea potting mix (Mixed together). For warm dry regions the addition of pine bark may not be necessary, however it is still worth considering to keep a well aerated pot which will extend the life of your Blueberry in a pot considerably.

Under no circumstances should you tease the roots as this will severely set the bush back. Ensure when planting that the top of the soil of the pot you have purchased remains level with the soil in your pot you are transplanting into.

Why Premium potting mix?

Premium mixes are the first choice when you want the very best for your plants. Premium mixes have greater water-holding capacity, contain added nitrogen, and remain at peak performance for a longer period. They are a worthwhile investment, especially for those superior plants that are important decorative specimens. Premium mixes are identified on the bag by Red Standards Mark 'ticks'.

Add pine bark to the top of the pot to help protect the surface roots. Blueberries require a PH of 5.0- 5.5.

Fertilising - Use a good 6 month slow release fertilizer or organic fertilizer as directed every 6 months. Choose a fertiliser that is recommended for Azaleas and Camellias. Troforte is a great new product well suited to blueberries. Use a liquid fertiliser like Thrive or Charlie Carp once every month when the plants are actively growing or producing fruit.



Watering- Because the potting media is free draining, in warm weather plants should be watered every 2 days(Give plants up to 6 months old 1.5 litres and mature plants 2- 3 litres of water per plant or until water dribble's out of the pot base). In Winter this can be reduced by 50%. Do not over water. Avoid watering plants over their foliage fertilizing, as this will help to avoid promoting conditions for leaf fungal diseases.

Good luck!