



Growing Blueberries Successfully

Soil

The most important thing you can do to ensure the success of your blueberries is to plant them in the correct soil! They can grow happily in either the ground or a pot as long as they are given the correct soil. Blueberries require a nice well-draining acidic soil with a pH of between 4.5 and 6.0. E.B. Stone's Azalea & Camellia planting mix is ideal for this. Blueberries also like to be planted with decaying organic matter like bark. To get your blueberries off to the best start possible, **we recommend a mix of 2 parts Azalea & Camellia mix to 1 part Micro Bark.** Plant them directly into this mix, even when planting in-ground; do not mix with your native soil. Apply generously- plan on using ½ bag of Azalea mix for each plant!



Exposure

Blueberries can take full sun or partial shade. In the hotter parts of the valley, they will do best if they're getting shade for part of the day.

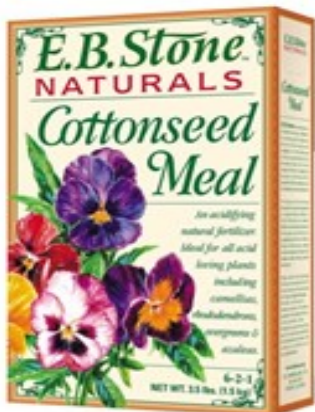
Fertilizer

Even when planting directly into the Azalea & bark mix, eventually the soil will become depleted and you will need to fertilize to keep the soil acidic. For this we recommend either cottonseed meal or soil sulfur. You can also use E.B.Stone Azalea & Camellia fertilizer. Apply fertilizer in early spring before the plants leaf out and again 6 weeks later.

**2 Parts
Azalea Mix**



**1 Part
Micro Bark**



Best Varieties for Our Area

Emerald—Produces abundant clusters of large to very large berries with tasty, balanced sweet flavor. Very productive and highly rated. Zones 7-10. Self-fruitful. Estimated at 250 hours chill or less.

Jewel—One of California's leading commercial varieties due to its high adaptability. Exceptional growth and high yields. Midseason harvest of large to very large berries with tangy sweet flavor. Chill requirement estimated at 200 hours. Self-fruitful

Jubilee—Southern Highbush. Midseason, sweet, firm berry. Upright and quite compact bush, with fruit borne on the outer periphery. Chilling requirement is estimated at 400-500 hours.

Misty—Southern Highbush. Early season. In the West Misty is quite vigorous, growing very well on the coast and in the inland heat. This especially flavorful fruit does well in areas with chilling as low as 150 hours and all areas with mild winters and hot summers.

O'Neal—Southern Highbush. Large fruit is especially sweet and flavorful. Early season. 5-6 ft. bush. 200 hours. Self-fruitful, but plant two varieties for largest crops.

Peach Sorbet—This compact-growing blueberry is a stunner: leaves of peach, pink, orange and emerald green. White bell-shaped flowers in spring, followed by flavorful, sweet blueberries in summer. Mounded shape, growing to 1 ½ -2 ft. In most climates, the leaves are held throughout winter, turning to a rich purple color. Est. chill requirement 300 hours or less.

Pink Icing—Distinctive foliage colors and large, richly flavored berries. In spring, the foliage has many shades of pink, mixed with blue and deep greens. The leaves turn a showy iridescent turquoise blue in winter. Mounded, compact growth habit to 3-4 ft. Adapted to patio container growing or landscape use for year-round color. Est. chill requirement 500 hrs.

Pink Lemonade offers something unique in edible fruits. White translucent berries mature to a luscious bright pink and taste wonderfully sweet with a firm, clear texture. 'Pink Lemonade' will produce farther south than many traditional blueberry cultivars. Berry color and flavor will attract both gourmet cooks and those seeking a culinary novelty.

Sharpblue—Southern highbush. Excellent flavor. Nearly evergreen in mild winter climates. Bears fruit nearly year-round. Vigorous plant to 6 ft. Dime-sized dark blue fruit. 200 hours.

Southmoon—Southern highbush. Exceptional berries with superb flavor. Florida native with vigorous, upright character. Performs well in California, both inland and coastal. Prefers light sandy soils. 200-300 hours.

Sunshine Blue—Southern highbush. Great flavored firm berries are smaller than other varieties but produce longer throughout the season. Semi-dwarf evergreen bush with great fall color. Showy hot pink flowers fade to white in spring. Self-fruitful. Estimated chilling required 150 hours, but very cold hardy as well