

## Garden Talk

"Where People who Love to Garden, Love to Shop" M A Better Backyard Blueberry

Beginner gardeners struggle with their first blueberry crop because there are a few secrets for a bush that produces an abundance of fruit. This unique plant loves boggy wet soils, that are very acidic with actively com-

posting soils. This does not describe the soils we grown in at the higher elevations.

For this reason the very best results come from container gardening with this proud landscape shrub. Your bush will remain a vibrant deep green throughout the growing season. You will also find the flowers have more contrast and the fruits will seem larger and easier to pick. All because you chose to plant these fruiting beauties in a container instead of the landscape.

Follow these easy steps for a great blueberry harvest. **Potting Soil** - Plant directly into Watters organic "Potting Soil". This peat moss rich soil will insure better drainage, reduced pH and a heavier harvest. This soil is meant to be planted directly into without additional soil additives. It's that easy.

Bigger is better - plant in a container at least 20" in diameter for long lasting blueberries that come back year after year.

**Fertilizer** - Feed with Watters, "All Natural Plant Food" at one month intervals. The additional sulfur in this organic food will insure larger berry formation and better plant color.

Water at 3-5 day intervals for consistent hydration. It is highly recommended to place a sauce under the container to increase water retention of the soil.

**Sunny Locations** - Plants can be placed in full sun to part shade, but the ideal





locations would be an eastern exposure. Directly under a tree also works well. Early morning sun followed by midday shade followed by afternoon sun is well suited for blueberries.

> **Jubilee Blueberry** - Perfect for the warmer climates and the higher elevations. Abundant crops of sky-blue fruit are extra sweet as they mature from late summer through fall. Here is the unusual trait of this blueberry over others the dusted blue green foliage remains evergreen in mild winters and can have an orange cast when exposed to full sun locations.

> **Patriot Blueberry** - Prized for not only its early crop of very large sweet berries, but also its profusion of delicately tinged flowers. This

larger blueberry bush says it can grow to 10 feet tall, but don't believe is at the higher elevations. Expect 5-6 feet out of this most hearty of blueberry bushes. The multi-stemmed form and brilliant fall colors of yellow, bronze and red make it a prize for those gardeners that are also looking for some fall color in the landscape.

**Sunshine Blueberry** - If you want a hardy push that not only produces in waves of berries, but is also beautiful, this is the blueberry for you. Hot pink flowers fade to white that yield abundant crops of large tangy blueber-

> ries. This semi-dwarf shrub is well suited for contain gardens over flowering with petunia for a stunning look. This is one of the few bushes that is self pollinating, but when planted with another variety of blueberry in the same backyard will double production.



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