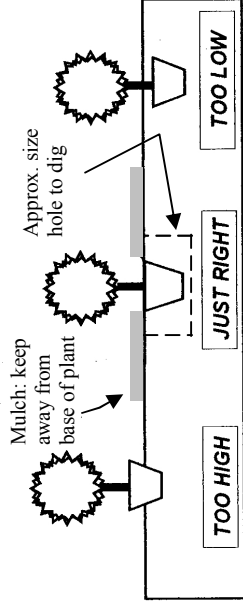


### **Planting Level: In-Ground or in Containers**



### **Maintenance:**

Now that your blueberry is planted, use a pH meter and check the pH. It should be 6.0 to 6.5. If not, don't worry when soil is too alkaline it takes several months to get it into the desired range. Check the soil pH monthly to make sure it is becoming more acid and not too alkaline. Soil Sulfur can take up to 1 to 3 months to begin working and may need to be applied that often to maintain a low soil pH. For fertilizing see Fertilizing note below.

Trick for sandy soil: add MulchBlock into your soil mixture when planting. This will help retain moisture.

### **Fertilizing:**

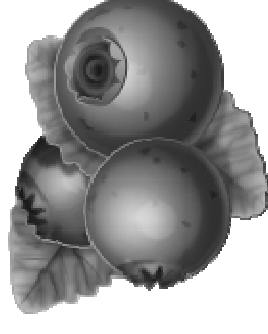
Feed as directed with an organic acid based fertilizer like Dr. Earth Rhody, Azalea & Camellia food beginning at bud break (when new growth begins in spring) and ending no later than July 30th. Feeding after July 30th is unnecessary since after the summer solstice, they begin to go dormant. For an extra boost, use Neptune's Harvest Liquid Seaweed and Fish fertilizer applied as a foliar spray, 3 times per year; at bud break, pre-harvest and post-harvest.

### **Pruning:**

Prune tops after harvest for 2 years following planting. On 3rd year, remove oldest (3 year) canes to the ground. Goal is to remove about 2 canes per year to maintain production. Old canes don't produce as much as new canes! If plants become too bushy and full you can thin them out during the dormant season.

### **Watering:**

The key to watering blueberries is consistency. Blueberries prefer to be moist. A soaker hose works well for them, even in containers! A moisture meter is a handy tool to have for this.



## How to grow your own **Blueberries!**

THE

# GREENERY

Nursery and Garden Shop

742 E. Olive Avenue  
Turlock

(209) 632-4214

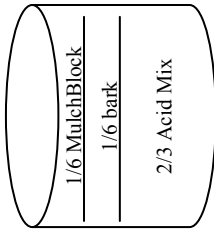
[www.greenerynsy.com](http://www.greenerynsy.com)

## Planting In Containers:

Select a container that is one size bigger than the pot the blueberry is currently in. For example: a #1 (1 gallon) should go into a pot approximately the size of a #5 (5 gallon) pot. A #5 (5 gallon) should go into a 16-18" pot. We recommend clay or plastic pots.

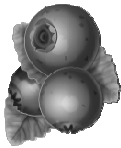
Begin by making the soil mixture. Start with 2/3 Gardner & Bloome Acid Planting Mix, 1/6 pathway bark (1/4" grade) and 1/6 MulchBlock. Add an organic acid fertilizer such as Dr. Earth Rhody, Azalea & Camellia or Espoma Hollytone as directed. Mix thoroughly.

Not sure how to figure out proportions? Try this trick. Take the container you will be using, fill it 2/3 Acid Planting mix, then fill half of the remaining space with bark (1/6th) and top it off with the MulchBlock and lastly your fertilizer. Now dump it out and mix thoroughly. Done!



↑ Your container

Now fill your container with your soil mix, packing firmly, so that when you place the blueberry plant, the root ball will be 3" to 4" below the lip of the pot. Finish filling the pot around the root ball and pack firmly until the soil is just even with the top root ball. Lastly, mulch! Mulch 2" thick with coarse bark and water thoroughly. See [Planting Level](#).



*The key to planting blueberries is soil pH. Blueberries prefer 6.0 or below. Always use organic fertilizer on blueberries. Organic fertilizer makes them disease resistant, heat resistant and just healthier which means a prettier, more productive plant for us!*

## Supplies Check List:

- Gardner & Bloome Acid Planting Mix
- MulchBlock
- Medium Orchid bark
- Soil Sulfur
- Dr. Earth Rhody, Azalea & Camellia or Espoma Hollytone
- pH meter
- Moisture meter
- 12" or 16" clay or plastic pot (if planting in containers)
- Neptune's Harvest Liquid Seaweed and Fish fertilizer

\*for quantities ask one of our knowledgeable staff.

## Planting in-ground:

Well-drained soil is a must! Not sure if you have well-drained soil? Try this trick: dig a hole approximately 1' deep by 1' wide. Fill it with water and let it drain. Then fill it with water again but this time note the time. It should drain 1" per hour or faster. If it does not, then you have poor-draining soil and need to create raised beds for your blueberries or plant in containers.

Once you have established that you have well-drained soil to plant in, go ahead and dig the hole. The hole should be twice as wide as the container the blueberry is currently in, and 1 1/2 times as deep. In the hole, fill it with Gardner & Bloome Acid Planting Mix, add a handful (check the package for recommended dose) of Soil Sulfur, add an organic acid fertilizer like Dr. Earth Rhody, Azalea & Camellia or Espoma Hollytone (check the package for recommended amount), cover all with native soil and mix thoroughly. Next, plant your blueberry so that the root ball is just above the rest of the soil to allow for setting. **Now mulch!** You need to mulch the soil up to 4" thick with a medium to coarse bark like orchid bark. Mulching with coarse bark filters salts out of the irrigation water, therefore keeping the soil acidic. Make sure to keep the mulch away from the stems of the plant otherwise it may smother and kill the plant! Water thoroughly when finished.