



Success with Blueberry Plants



7808 Nebraska Ave, Cashton, WI 54619

landerson7808@gmail.com

Blueberries need an acidic soil to thrive. They have a shallow root system and like a light, well-draining soil full of organic material.

- If you have heavy alkaline soil you will need to amend the planting area so that it has a pH of 4.5 - 5.5. The simplest way to do this is to dig out a large planting hole and place the soil in a wheelbarrow. Add the same quantity of peat moss and mix it together well. You can also add oak leaf mold or other organic materials as would be found at the edge of a forest floor. Place the amended soil back into your hole, planting the blueberry plant in its place. If your soil is quite heavy, the plant would be happiest if you would mound the soil and plant the top of the plant somewhat above the original soil level to aid in drainage. Our customers have generally had great success with this mix. However, if you really want to try to duplicate an idea blueberry soil, you can use any or all of the components in this recipe:

Here is a "Foolproof Blueberry Recipe" given to us by one of our customers. He got it from a neighbor, and after he dug out his plants that had not been growing and replanted them in this mix, his plants began growing and bearing in abundance.

- ◇ **1 part Native Soil; 1 part Peat Moss; 1 part Compost or Composted Manure; 1 part Well-rotted Oak Sawdust; **If your soil is heavy, you can also add 1 part Sand***
- If you have a plant that came in our biodegradable bags, and if it is well established in the bag, you can cut off any of the bag that is loose, and leave any of the bag that is stuck tight to roots growing through it.
- If the plant was recently potted in our grow bags, leave the plant in the bag, but clip off 2 or 3 inches of the top edges, anything that extend above the soil level, so moisture is not hindered during dry spells.
- To get your fruiting plant off to the best start possible, we recommend that you top-dress the planting hole with a thin layer - 1 to 2 inches - of rotted manure and compost, either from a farm or from a bag. This will send nutrients to the roots of your plant every time it is watered/rained on, giving you more abundant plant size and fruit sooner.
- It is then beneficial to top the whole thing off with a water-retaining mulch such as wood bark, or chips, sawdust, or pine needles. Oak and pine will also help boost acidity.
- In subsequent years, if there is every a red or yellow tint to leaves as the summer progresses, it is usually a sign that the soil is not acidic enough. You can add Sulphur (organic) or aluminum sulphate (less organic) which can be purchased at most stores that carry garden items. Be sure to rule out that the plant's roots are not too wet or dry. Blueberries like even moisture.
- If planting a large number of blueberries, you can construct a mound of soil and add a few bales of peat moss, till it in, and plant up the whole mound. This will give you a special spot of "blueberry ground" that will be easier to maintain.