

# Blueberry

*Vaccinium spp.* · Heath family

**DIFFICULTY** Moderate

**TYPE** Perennial shrub

**MATURITY** 2–3 years to good production



SUN  
Full–part sun



WATER  
Little, often



SOIL PH  
4.5–5.5



SPACING  
1–1.5m



DEPTH  
as per pot

## 01 Acid bed & mulch

Blueberries need acidic soil and shallow, fibrous roots that dry out fast. Plant into a mounded, acid-amended bed with a thick, permanent layer of pine-based mulch.



shallow fibrous roots, acid mound

## 02 Planting

|        |                                                                      |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| METHOD | Plant into a mounded, acidic bed — shallow roots dislike heavy clay. |
| SOIL   | Well-drained, acidic — amend with sulphur or a pine-based acidifier. |
| TIMING | Plant in autumn or early spring, avoiding extreme heat.              |

## 04 Problems

- **Chlorosis** — yellow leaves, green veins; soil pH too high, acidify or use chelated iron.
- **Bird damage** — netting is close to essential once fruit colours up.
- **Root rot** — poor drainage; raise beds if soil holds water.
- **Fruit fly** — net ripening fruit, remove fallen fruit promptly.

## 03 Growing care

- Water little and often — shallow roots dry out quickly.
- Mulch with pine bark or similar acidic mulch, topped up year-round.
- Feed with an acid-plant fertiliser in spring and after fruiting.
- Plant two varieties where possible — cross-pollination lifts yield.

## 05 Harvest & storage

|         |                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SIGNS   | Fully blue, slight give, comes away easily with a gentle tug.     |
| METHOD  | Pick every few days through the season as berries ripen unevenly. |
| CURING  | None needed.                                                      |
| STORAGE | Fridge 1–2 weeks; freezes very well for months.                   |

## 06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Azalea

Rhododendron

Strawberry

AVOID NEARBY

Alkaline-soil plants

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived shrub. Renew mulch and acidity every year.