



## BLUEBERRIES

Plant in full sun. Space plants 1 metre (3 ft) apart or further if desired. An organic and well drained soil is essential to good growth. Heavy soil should be avoided. Mulch with acidic peat, wood chips, pine needles or straw to a depth of 30 cm (12 in). It is important that you keep the soil acidic as blueberries need this condition in order to thrive. Keep a constant supply of moisture during the growing season as drying out will weaken the plants. If branching is not abundant in young plants, the longest stems may be cut back by 1/3 in early spring. After plants begin fruiting, thick dense growth should be pruned by thinning out the oldest stems to ground level on a strong side shoot. For winter protection a heavy snow covering is best or mulch with straw, leaves or hay.

Select a sunny location with well-drained soil that is free of weeds and is well-worked. It's best to locate your blueberry plants in an area where irrigation is readily available as best results will be achieved by keeping the root zone moist throughout the growing season.

Where the soil is not ideal or marginally-drained, raised beds are an excellent option. Blueberries also do well in patio containers and offer a great way for apartment and condo dwellers and those with little or no yard to enjoy blueberries.

Blueberries prefer acidic soils. A fail-safe way to grow blueberries in almost any soil is to incorporate peat moss into the planting medium. For planting directly in the ground, work up a planting area approximately 2 feet in diameter and 1 foot deep for each plant.

