

# Bountiful Berries

## Growing Berries

- Full sun location in well-drained soil with compost (blueberry is exception sometimes)
- Spacing of plants and air circulation – keep the diseases down and maximize sun
- Watering schedule - how much, utilizing basins, check regularly in summer
- Fertilizing – organic Fruit/Berry/Vine food for all listed except Blueberries – which need acidity and love the organic Rhody food from E.B. Stone. Try and feed all at minimum twice a year – once early March, once early June or so.
- Mulching – conserve water and keep your plants happy – especially Blueberries!
- Pruning – thinning out and removing older wood is key with all
- Container growing – use a good organic potting soil like Edna's Best from EB Stone, even add a portion of compost to it. For blueberries – use an acidic planting mix like EB Stone Rhody/Azalea/Camellia mix.
- Problems in 2023 with any berries? Apply dormant spray now to start clean – Horticultural Oil and Liquicop mixture is perfect. Copper is for disease, Oil for insects.
- Go green and utilize natural sprays to control pests, never use anything systemic on edibles.

**Blueberries** – Although some are partially self-fertile all produce best with cross pollination. Choose from larger Northern Highbush Varieties, some evergreen types, and numerous newer dwarf flavors for growing in ground or in pots. Many have spectacular new growth color in spring and all have excellent fall color. See list for specific information on varieties but make sure to note some unique ones – **Pink Popcorn** (a highbush with tasty pink blueberries) and **Cabernet Splash** (a highbush with nice purple-red new foliage and tasty berries). We stock “Bonus” and “Huron” both highbush types noted for record setting yields. Some great semi-evergreen varieties like **Bountiful Blue** and **Sunshine Blue** are great partners. Coming NEW for 2023 later this season is **Bountiful Baby** – an exciting new dwarf flavor with tidy shape and delicious berries. The Bushel and Berry series from Star Roses and Plants continues to introduce great varieties of Blueberries. Tried and true ones like **Pink Icing** and **Jelly Bean** are now joined by some great newer ones including **Blueberry Buckle** and **Silver Dollar**. There are even some fun semi-weeping varieties now like **Midnight Cascade** and **Sapphire Cascade**. Try these in containers, in the landscape and the cascading ones even make great hanging basket options.

**Raspberries** – These are best grown in rows supported with bracing. Remember Raspberries can grow vigorously and need some room – give them space. Choose from June crop or everbearing varieties. Note the newer **Raspberry Shortcake** – a great dwarf with no thorns that will grow in pots as well. There are newer ones like **Crimson Night** – a great dark red variety with excellent flavor. Options include many good ones like **Encore**, **Latham**, **Meeker**, **Willamette**, **Canby**, **Indian Summer**, **Fall Gold**, and **Heritage**. Couple local greats include **Cascade Premier** and **Cascade Harvest**. All are self-fertile plants.

**Strawberries** – These little groundhuggers are easy to grow. Space new plants 12 inches apart and remember to thin out oldest “mother” plants every 3 years or so and keep the runners. Choose from June bearing or everbearing varieties. Remember if you have no room in the ground Strawberries are wonderful in pots on the patio, or in hanging baskets. Be sure clean up your patch at least once a season – coming out of winter is an excellent time to divide, transplant, feed and get them ready for another year of delicious berries. Be sure to look at the latest and greatest ones from Bushel and Berry, **Scarlet Belle** and **Rosey Belle**, showy blooms and excellent berries. All are self-fertile.

**Grapes** – We can grow lots of different grapes in our climate but make sure you are getting one for Western WA specifically. We carry a few different slipskin/seedless table grapes that are good producers. Make sure to give grapes support and room to grow and most importantly don’t be bashful with the pruning. Plants like a good hard prune (back to 2 or 3 buds) in late winter. All grapes are self-fertile plants.

**Huckleberries** – Choose from **Evergreen Huckleberries** (blue/black color) and **Deciduous Huckleberries** (bright red/orange). Both easy to grow and will take some shade as well. Try going “native” and planting these NW beauties and enjoy some berries on the ice cream! We also get some fun Vaccinium species in like **V. glauco-album** and **V. nummularia**. Also look at **Gaylussacia “Berried Treasure”** – a cool Appalachian Huckleberry with nice berries and red foliage. All huckleberries are self-fertile.

**Kiwis** – These large growing vines need plenty of real estate and support structure or fence. Choose Hardy Kiwis (these are hard skinned green and some are self-fertile) or Fuzzy Kiwis (these are more subtropical and require a male and female plant for fruit production). Kiwis need all day sun – especially Fuzzy varieties. Like grapes don’t be bashful on the pruning – cut them back hard in late winter to control size and keep tidier. Like variegated foliage? Try some Arctic Kiwis – they are stunning! Look for the newer self-fertile varieties like **‘Sweet and Solo’** (fuzzy) or **Kiwi Magic** (hardy type). Another newer option from Proven Winners is **Jenny**, a newer fuzzy variety that is self fertile!

**Currants** – Choose from Black, White or Red Currants. All are easy to grow and require only occasional hard pruning. Try thinning out older wood at base in late winter. They can also be sheared back a bit, but keep in mind production is on one year old wood so don’t shear back to far. Give them some room as currants can get nice and bushy. Self-Fertile plants.

**Brambles** – These are your Blackberries, Boysenberries, Marionberries, Tayberries, and so on. Look for the thornless varieties as well to keep the blood loss to a minimum in the garden ☺ Local native Blackberries are tasty, but named cultivars will boast larger berries and even better flavor. Give brambles support to grow arching canes and give them room. Cut growth that produced berries back hard each year to keep the fruiting wood coming season to season.

**Other berries to consider** – Honeyberries (need to cross-pollinate), Goji berries (self-fertile), Goumi (partially self-fertile), and Elderberries (need to cross pollinate). Specifically modern elderberries offer excellent foliage color and interest, plant two different varieties to get berries as well.