

Green Co, Inc.

Following are highlights for growing our 2” cell blueberries:

Basic Requirements

Blueberries are acid loving plants, requiring a pH of 4.5-5.0. If your pH is higher than this, we suggest adding powdered sulfur to reduce to do the desired level.

Blueberries require water that is low in salts, including sodium and bicarbonates. The water should be slightly acid, with bicarbonate levels at 50 or lower.

Best soil types are light, sandy, and friable. It should be easy to penetrate by the light, fibrous, non-invasive roots. Heavy clay soils are difficult for blueberry roots to grow in. If your soil is heavy or can get hard to penetrate, or if your rainfall is high, it is best to plant on raised beds.

Plant Handling

Keep in 0-2C cold storage until ready to plant. The old leaves will quickly fall off the plants and new ones will come soon. Don't allow plants to dry out.

Preparing

A raised bed, properly prepared will provide a rooting medium that is well drained and easy for the roots to grow in. Make sure the raised bed is flat on top, or slightly bowled inward so that the water runs to the plant.

Soil organic matter can be a real plus. Growers commonly add organic matter to try and raise it above 8% in the top six inches. One can use sawdust, rice hulls, etc. but no manure. Work the mulch into the soil to keep it soft and friable. Soil organic matter is less important if the soil is naturally sandy.

Top mulch organic matter helps blueberries by moderating soil heat in summer, adding organic matter upon breakdown, prevents weeds, and preserving soil moisture. Growers often times top mulch 2-3 inches deep by 2 1/2 ft. wide. You can use almost anything (except manure) - rice hulls, wood chips, hay, etc.

Drip or trickle irrigation is fine for blueberries. For drip we prefer smaller emitters closer together to form a solid band- say 18” apart and 0.4 GPM.

Planting

Plants are set out about .7-1.0 meter apart with rows about 3 meters apart. **BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO LET THE SMALL ROOTBALL DRYOUT IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS.** Water frequently to keep the rootball moist.

Plant at the same depth as the plant was growing, with about 1 cm of soil covering the top. Firm the soil with your hands around the plant.

Easiest for blueberries is to fertilize with through the drip system with acidic fertilizer. **AVOID CALCIUM NITRATE!** Use dissolved Ammonium sulfate or other fertilizers mostly in the ammonium form. Nitrogen is most important the first year. Most growers feed at 600 PPM N, or about 3-4 lbs. Of actual nitrogen per acre of blueberries (about 3-4 kg per Ha.)

Feed about every week through about mid August.

If you don't feed through the irrigation system, then let me know and I will give other suggestions.