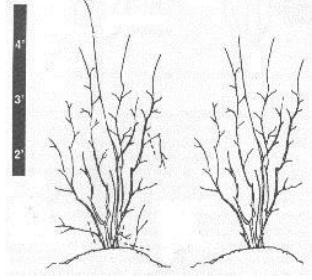


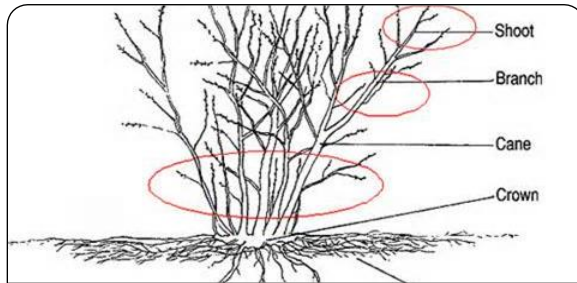
SELECTED VARIETIES AND CHARACTERISTICS

Mature Plant

- Renewal pruning is needed
- Remove weak or diseased canes
- Cut back two old canes to strong lateral or 1 foot from ground
- Allows for strong cane growth with next year's fruiting buds



Blueberry Plant Parts



The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107734.doc>).

Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 752-0495.

Direct local inquiries to (559) 241-7515, UCCE Fresno County.

VARIETY	FRUIT				BUSH		Comment
	Season	Size	Flavor	Yield	Size	Fall Color	
ABUNDANCE	Early-Mid	L	Sweet	High	5-6'	Yellow	Vigorous upright grower
EMERALD	Mid	XL	Mildly Sweet	High	5-6'	Green	Great landscaper
JEWEL	Early-Mid	XL	Tangy	High	6-8'	Green	Vigorous upright grower
JUBILEE	Early-Mid	M	Fresh Sweet	High	5-6'	Yellow-Red	Adaptable fast grower
MISTY	Mid	M	Mildly Sweet	High	4-5'	Blue-Green	Good in heavy soil
SPRINGHIGH	Mid	L	Sweet	Med-High	5-6'	Yellow-Red	Best when planted with other varieties
STAR	Very Early	L	Sweet	Medium	6-7'	Yellow	Vigorous, upright bush
SUNSHINE BLUE	Mid-Late	M	Rich-Sweet	Low	3'	Blue-Green	Self-pollinizing, takes higher pH



Growing Your Own



Blueberries

Michael Eggers



READY

- Select a sunny area
- Well drained soil
- Adjust pH of 4.5-5.5
- Add sulfur
- Add acidifying organic matter

SET

- Plant in late winter or early spring 5-6 feet apart. Do not add fertilizer
- Mulch with acidic organic matter (pine bark or needles or oak leaves). Do not use black plastic.

Irrigation system – Blueberries need moist not soggy soil. Do not allow roots to dry out. Water year around except during rainy season.

- The best irrigation system will be dual drip lines with ½ gph in-line emitters spaced 18” apart.
- Micro-sprinklers may also be used, but placement is critical because as the plant grows it may block the water flow.

Plants will need 2-3 gallons of water per week from May through September.

- Less water, more often is better than wet/dry cycles.
- Plants need watering three times per week in the summer.

GROW

Plants will start new growth within 30-60 days. Pale yellow (chlorotic) growth means there is an iron deficiency that is linked to

high pH. Add iron chelate while acidifying the soil.

Avoid pH creep by adding sulfur in winter and using acidic fertilizer (Camellia-azalea mix is good). Avoid Nitrate fertilizers. For organic – use 1 lb of blood, bone or cottonseed meal per plant.

Fertilize lightly and frequently.

Fertilizer Schedule February to June		
Year	Amt/plant*	Circle
First	1 ounce	2 feet
Second	2 ounces	3 feet
Three +	3 ounces	4 feet

*Fertilizer should be increased for heavily mulched soil

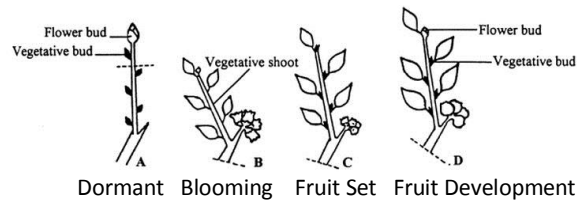
PROBLEMS

Disease: Root rot from overwatering

Pests: Birds and gophers

Weeds: Rob water and nutrients

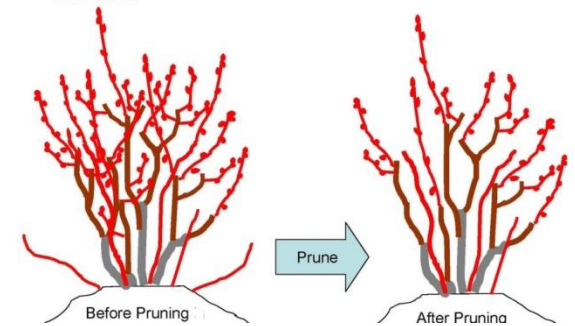
SHOOT GROWTH AND HARVEST



As fruit ripens it goes from green to red to blue then develops a dusty bloom. That is when they are ready to pick. Berries may be frozen just as they come off the vine, no washing needed.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- Prune out wood that has already fruited
- Remove dead, damaged or diseased wood
- Remove lateral growth around base
- Remove twiggy wood
- Keep brightly colored wood with long laterals
- About 1/3 of wood removed



First two years:

- Promote strong vegetative growth
- Remove all blossoms in year 1
- Remove only dead, dying or spindly branches

3RD TO 5TH years:

- Prune in summer following harvest
- Don't remove more than ½ of latest growth
- Cut back extra-long shoots to 4-5 buds)
- Flower buds are at tip of previous year's growth