



“Blueberries in Abundance” - November 2019
 Santa Clara County Master Gardener Handout
 By Jeff Jenks, MG 2013

Blueberry plant variety that does best in SSC: **Southern Highbush** – check chill hours, less than 600 is good.

Cultivars include: O’Neal, Misty, Star, Jewell, Emerald, Jubilee, Reveille, Sharpblue, Sunshine Blue, Southmoon, and patented new dwarf varieties from Monrovia like Bountiful Blue®.

Annual Care Overview

Season / Months	What to do?
November – January (Winter)	Prune; Apply sulfur; Amend soil with peat moss; Prepare soil and containers to plant new bushes
February – April (Spring)	Plant new bushes; Fertilize; Add chelated iron if needed; Determine how to protect from critters & birds
May – July (Summer)	Protect from Birds: Harvest – Enjoy!
July – October (Fall)	Mulch with straw; Expect new growth; prune dead branches; remove failing plants

Advice for growing blueberries:

Growing in the soil: Amend soil so that pH is between 4.5 – 5.1. Amend soil with peat moss. An annual application of sulfur may be needed. This may take a few years.

For containers: use acid loving plant soil mix in a barrel shaped container to achieve a good harvest sooner.

Growing in soil: Regular watering (automated drip irrigation) to keep the roots moist all year long. For Containers: Automated drip irrigation. Roots can NEVER dry out.

Fertilize in Spring with specific **fertilizers for Blueberries**. Beware overfertilizing with ammonium sulfate. It’s easy to apply too much. Avoid applying fertilizers from May to January. Use chelated iron if leaves are pale.

MGSCC: <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help/fruits-nuts/blueberries/>

UC backyard orchard: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/gardenweb/Berries/Blueberries/>

From Dave Wilson Nursery: <https://www.davewilson.com/home-gardens/growing-fruits-and-nuts/vine-and-bush-fruits/growing-blueberries>

Insects & Diseases: Light Brown Apple Moth, Tussock Moth, Spotted wing drosophila

What to do? Call MG Help Desk M-F 9:30 am–12:30 pm 408-282-3105.

UC IPM: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/index.html>