

Blueberry Questions

Q. What does it mean 'to break dormancy'?

A. The appearance of the leaf and/ or flower bud

Q. Do you fertilize plants in containers?

A. It isn't necessary at the time of planting. Blueberries are particularly sensitive to being over-fertilized so proceed with caution. The research suggests using a small amount of fertilizer 4 months after planting. In addition to leaching over-fertilizing blueberries can damage the roots and deacidify your soil.

Q. OK to use pine needles as mulch (since they are acidic)?

A. Yes, it's recommended as a way of helping the soil to maintain acidity.

Q. OK to plant different varieties near each other?

A. Yes, it's desirable since you can extend your fruiting period by selecting varieties that typically bare fruit early, early/mid season, or late season varieties.

Q. Discuss different sulfur compounds; differentiate between sprays for fruit trees and granules used to acidify the soil.

A:

Q. If you buy a plant from a nursery, how old is the plant?

A. Probably one year. That said, consider a newly planted blueberry an infant.

Q. What is the canopy? (when speaking about pruning)

A: The canopy, or crown, is the upper layer of a plant.

Q. Are oak leaves ok for mulch since they are acidic?

A: Fresh oak leaves are acidic. That said, the acidity in oak leaves decreases as they break down and become more neutral. The use of oakleaves was not recommended in the research I reviewed.

Q. Should blueberry clusters ripen at the same time?

A: Generally they should ripen in close proximity. If they don't you likely need to acidify your soil.

Q: Can you direct root blueberries?

A: It depends. Blueberries are traditionally propagated via stem cuttings (Marino et al., 2014), but not all cultivars can be effectively propagated through this method. Not all cultivars can be effectively propagated through this method (Lyrene, 1981). The results of research-based analysis indicates that there is significant difference among cultivars in indirect shoots. Additionally, it was also noted that stem cuttings may bring or spread pathogens. My guidance based on the literature is proceed with caution if you'd like to try this method of reproduction and spend time researching further for additional guidance. Google Scholar has plenty of material....you tube is not typically not grounded in researched methods.

Q: There were a lot of people who wanted to see your pruning. Pruning flower buds in the first two years.

A: Be brave!