

BLUEBERRY

My favorite fruit in the universe, I love a blueberry anyway I can eat it. I know the price can scare you away so plant a few in the yard, it does not take many to make you happy. The rabbiteye is the best for the Wiregrass and they are very easy to grow. One of the best things is they are pretty much insect free. The only pest you will have are the birds who will eat all you have if you do not watch them and of course people like me who will come to see you and just stand there and eat right off the bush.

You will need to make sure you have two varieties for cross-pollination. The regular old bumble bee is the best kid to pollinate the fruit. You can select the ones that ripen at different times so you can have them all season long.

Early one are; Premier, Climax, Beckyblue and Brightwell. Mid season will be Tiftblue and Powerblue. There are plenty more to buy so just check at the garden center, they will have others that will grow here just fine.

Plant in full sun with a well-drained soil. They like a pH of 4.5 to 5.2 so you might to check, they will not do well if the pH is top high.

Fall and winter being the best to plant you will have to watch for that late spring frost we are famous for, that could hurt your blooms. Try to plant away for a low spot. If you have they in your landscape that will help to protect them. They need to be at least 5 foot apart. Make sure that there is no soil upon the trunk; this could be a huge problem down the line.

Water well the first years. They will take extra water because the berry will soak up some of the water so remember that.

Fertilizing should be done very sparing when they are young and lightly after that. Once in the spring and after you harvest is good enough. A slow-release is best.

Since they produce from the old wood from the year before just do a light prune. You just want to keep them where you can pick with ease. The more you prune the larger the berry will stay, if you get small fruit try a good prune and watch what happens.

The leaves are very colorful in the fall and that is an added joy to see. Try a few and I bet you will be adding more each year.

Happy Gardening Day!!

Nancy Walker

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