

Blueberry

Vaccinium spp. · Heath family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Perennial shrub

MATURITY 2–3 years to good production



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Little, often



SOIL PH
4.5–5.5



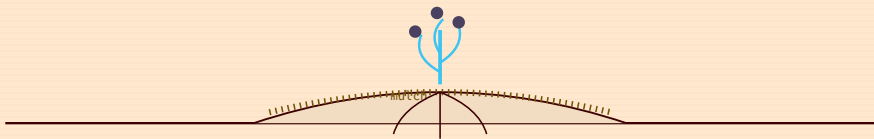
SPACING
1–1.5m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Acid bed & mulch

Blueberries need acidic soil and shallow, fibrous roots that dry out fast. Plant into a mounded, acid-amended bed with a thick, permanent layer of pine-based mulch.



shallow fibrous roots, acid mound

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant into a mounded, acidic bed — shallow roots dislike heavy clay.
SOIL	Well-drained, acidic — amend with sulphur or a pine-based acidifier.
TIMING	Plant in autumn or early spring, avoiding extreme heat.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water little and often — shallow roots dry out quickly.
- Mulch with pine bark or similar acidic mulch, topped up year-round.
- Feed with an acid-plant fertiliser in spring and after fruiting.
- Plant two varieties where possible — cross-pollination lifts yield.

04 Problems

- **Chlorosis** — yellow leaves, green veins; soil pH too high, acidify or use chelated iron.
- **Bird damage** — netting is close to essential once fruit colours up.
- **Root rot** — poor drainage; raise beds if soil holds water.
- **Fruit fly** — net ripening fruit, remove fallen fruit promptly.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fully blue, slight give, comes away easily with a gentle tug.
METHOD	Pick every few days through the season as berries ripen unevenly.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge 1–2 weeks; freezes very well for months.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a berry glut) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Azalea Rhododendron Strawberry	Alkaline-soil plants	Not applicable — long-lived shrub. Renew mulch and acidity every year.