TAGAWA gardens

Northblue Blueberry

Vaccinium 'Northblue'



Northblue Blueberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Group/Class: Half-High Blueberry

Description:

A very hardy hybrid blueberry with an upright open habit, produces bumper crops of tasty, sweet blue fruit in mid summer; all blueberries require highly acidic soils, excellent drainage and a good mulch, plant with plenty of peat moss

Edible Qualities

Northblue Blueberry is a small shrub that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces clusters of blue round berries which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Northblue Blueberry features dainty clusters of white bell-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones hanging below the branches in mid spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. It features an abundance of magnificent blue berries in mid summer.

This is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Northblue Blueberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Northblue Blueberry will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have sandy, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Note:

Blueberries require a low pH (acidic soil). Our soils are very alkaline so special care has to be taken to get them to give abundant fruit. Thus the 'High Maintenance' rating. Consult our staff or CSU for growing instructions.

