**BLUEBERRIES!**

**How to Choose**

Here at Robin’s Nest Greenhouses, we have grown a simply fabulous selection of Blueberry plants!

We have taken the mystery out of which variety is best for our area by growing and offering only the Blueberry plants that will grow well in our zone 6 to 6b area.

We have also grown a wide selection of varieties that will produce berries over different times through the summer months, which allows you to pick berries for a long season!

Our selection also includes varieties of Blueberry plants that have small berries to plants that have very large berries, as well as those which are good for different uses, e.g., fresh eating or freezing.

Our selection also includes Blueberries of different sized plants which helps with planning your Blueberry patch.

**How to Grow**

The first thing to consider is making sure your Blueberry plants will be in the sun all day.

The next important consideration is making sure water does not stand in the bed.

Blueberries are shallow-rooted plants. You must make sure the bed is weed-free, because hacking and pulling weeds around your plants is very damaging to the root system.

Blueberries are acid-loving plants and will not live very long if the soil pH is too high. Get a soil test that at least includes the pH. This will help you determine what kinds of fertilization or amendments you need based on something besides guesswork.

Buy a bale of PEAT MOSS! This is really one of the most important things you must do to be successful growing Blueberries. One 3.5 to 4 cubic feet bale should be enough for at least 4 or 5 Blueberries.

Dig a hole for each plant (Space them at least 5-6 feet apart) Each hole should be 2 – 2.5 feet across, and only about 1 foot deep (remember – these plants have shallow roots). Pile up the dirt next to each hole. Take away no more than half (one third is ok) of the dirt from each hole and replace it with about the same amount of Peat Moss. Mix the dirt and peat moss well.

Place the root ball in the hole so that ½ - 1 inch is higher than the hole. Fill in your mixed dirt/peat moss around the root ball. DO NOT stomp! Remember – the roots are shallow and delicate. Water in very generously so that that existing root ball comes in good contact with your new soil mix. Adding mulch is not too important with a fall planting, but you will want to mulch a couple of inches deep for the spring/summer growing season to help prevent weeds.

DO NOT USE redwood or cedar mulch. Peat Moss is a soil component, NOT mulch. Other bark mulches are ok. Be sure not to let the mulch crowd the stem. Repeat mulch every other year.

Fertilizing for the fall is not necessary. Check back next spring for more info.