

# Blueberry

## *Vaccinium spp.*

Two types of blueberries grow well in Florida: Deciduous perennial (rabbiteye) and evergreen perennial (southern highbush). If you're in the northern half of the state plant rabbiteye. Blueberries will do best in a sunny area away from buildings and competition from roots of trees. Both kinds of blueberries require acidic, well-drained soils. Plants will benefit from the addition of organic matter and a layer of pine bark mulch. Remember, you'll need at least two different varieties planted close together for cross-pollination. During the first growing season remove all the flowers before they turn into fruit to firmly establish your plants and make

**Type:** evergreen perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7 through 10

**Uses:** fruit; specimen

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 4 to 8 feet      **Spread:** 2 to 4 feet

**Plant spacing:** 4 to 6 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** soils that have 2–3% organic matter: acidic; sand; clay; loam

**Drought tolerance:** good

**Soil salt tolerances:** moderate

**Invasive potential:** not considered aggressive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests or diseases are normally seen on the plant

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Photo: Jeffrey G. Williamson, UF/IFAS