

Blueberry

Vaccinium spp.

Two types of blueberries grow well in Florida: rabbiteye and 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 the crop stronger the following year.

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