Blueberry Resource List for the Lincoln County Master Gardener Roundtable Series

Gibson Farms Blueberries, Siletz

Fall 2019

General:

“Growing Blueberries in Your Home Garden, EC 1304” – B. Strik,

OSU. 2008. Compact overview of everything from site selection harvesting.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1304>

Establishment:

“Blueberry Cultivars for the Pacific Northwest, PNW 656” – Finn,

et al. 2014. Discusses the characteristics and suitability of most blueberry varieties that you would encounter in local garden stores or mail-order nurseries. Varieties that they recommend for small u-pick farms and home gardens are indicated.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw656/html>

Nutrient Management:

“Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon, EM 8918” –

Hart, et al. 2006. Intended for commercial growers, in-depth management principles & methods.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8918>

Pruning:

“A Grower’s Guide to Pruning Highbush Blueberries., DVD 2” -

Strik & Penhallegon. 1990. Production values are a bit dated, but the principles and methods haven’t changed.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/dvd2>

Alternate Link: <https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/A+Grower's+Guide+to+Pruning+Highbush+Blueberries/0_05v1qew6>

Pests and Disease:

“Organic Pest and Disease Management in Home Fruit Trees and

Berry Bushes, EM 066E.” Brun & Bush, 2013. Washington State University. Great photos to aid in diagnosis and management of common pests and diseases in our area.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM066E/EM066E.pdf>

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks. Our go-to

resource for identifying and managing weeds, fungal pests, insect pests, and viral/bacterial pests. Type “blueberry” into the appropriate search bar to get a list of common pests/disease profiles.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/>

Organic Production:

“Organic Blueberry Production Webinar,” Strik, Bryla & Larco.

2012. In-depth and geared toward large-scale commercial production considerations, but has ideas that could be useful for home gardeners. <http://articles.extension.org/pages/26115/organic-blueberry-production-webinar#.VjP0Civcn3g>

Plaven, George. “Research Shows how Organic Blueberries can

Compete,” *Capital Press*, January 3, 2018. Succinct summary of research conclusions on mulching systems and organic fertilizer options.

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Organic/20180103/research-shows-how-organic-blueberries-can-compete>

Blueberry Soil Nutrient & Fertilization Guidelines

Soil PH: 4.5-5.5. Soil pH influences nitrogen availability. Incorporate lime at

planting or topdress fall or winter to raise soil pH to range.

When to fertilize: every 4 weeks beginning at full bloom (April). Do not fertilize

after June 15 to avoid delayed dormancy (new growth that does not

“harden off” before cold weather).

How much to fertilize:

New plantings: 20 lbs. N/acre (0.6 oz. N/plant). Applications should

be “split” to avoid overfertilization and ensure uptake. Apply 0.2 oz. N in April, May, and June. OR use a single application of slow release fertilizer at bloom.

Remember to calculate the N content of the specific fertilizer that you’re using. For example, to apply 0.2 oz. N would require about 0.4 oz. urea (46-0-0 analysis).

Established Plantings: Increase N fertilizer rates annually until you’re applying 100 lbs. N/acre (3 oz. N/plant) for plants 6-8 years old and older.

If you apply a new sawdust mulch, it will tend to tie up available N. Increase your N fertilizer rate by 0.6 oz. N/plant to offset this the year that you apply mulch.

Converting Per Acre recommendations to individual plants:

Literature assumes an industry standard 10-foot row spacing with

plants spaced 2 ½-3 feet. That equals 1452-1742 plants per acre.

Fertilizer Sources:

Avoid Nitrate formulations; blueberries do not utilize them well. Urea lowers soil pH less than Ammonium Sulfate or others (a potential problem in our area). Organic fertilizers at the correct rate perform just as well. Rapid soil pH declines and reduced yield have been observed with high rates of fish emulsion fertilizer.