



C017

## BLUEBERRY CULTIVARS

Blueberries are a member of the *Ericaceae*, or heath family. Both highbush and lowbush varieties are native to North America. They are handsome landscape plants that have bright red foliage in the fall and bear fruit with well documented health benefits. Although blueberries are better suited to the environment found in western Washington, they are well worth the effort needed to create growing conditions necessary for their success in eastern Washington.

### BLUEBERRY VARIETIES FOR THE INLAND NORTHWEST & INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

While blueberries are self-fertile, having 2 varieties will give better pollination and larger, earlier fruit. Purchase two or three-year-old plants.

Cultivar	Harvest Period	Fruit characteristics	Plant characteristics
Earliblue	Early	First to ripen, excellent dessert quality, large fruit size.	Upright bush, avoid frost pockets and poorly drained soils. Susceptible to phomopsis canker.
Spartan	Early	Very large, light blue, excellent dessert quality.	Upright bush, productive, prefers light, well-drained sites. Partially resistant to mummy berry fungus.
Patriot	Early	Large fruit, firm, very good flavor, high yield.	Vigorous, upright, winter hardy, performs well on sites with less than perfect soil drainage.
Bluejay	Early to mid-season	Medium size, light blue, mild, tart flavor, fruit will drop from bush.	Bush vigorous, moderate yield, winter hardy, some resistance to mummy berry fungus.
Northblue	Mid-season	Large, dark fruit with very good fruit quality with good shelf life.	Half-high blueberry hardy to -35 °F, but does best with snow cover. Ideal for ornamental plantings.
Bluecrop	Mid-season	Most widely planted cultivar in world. Large, light blue fruit, medium fresh quality, firm.	Very productive with consistent yields, vigorous bushes bear fruit over a 1-month harvest season. Disease resistant.
Berkeley	Mid-season	Large fruit, mild flavor (sweet), medium blue color.	Bush is open and spreading. High yields in the Northwest. More susceptible to spring frosts.
Darrow	Late	Largest of fruit size, tart flavor.	Vigorous, upright bush.

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