Blueberry Plant Spacing

You must test the soil and measure the length and width of the row(s) to determine how much sulfur to apply.

**SPACING**
- 4' – 5' between plants
- 10' – 12' between rows

**New Planting**

- row width x row length = square feet
  - 4' x 25' = 100' sq ft
  - 3' x 25' = 75' sq ft

**Mature Planting**

- row width x row length = square feet
  - 4' x 30' = 120' sq ft
  - 3' x 30' = 90' sq ft

Graphics by Janna Thompson, Nourse Farms

Diagrams not to scale
Step 1: 
Remove grass/weeds from planting area and test your soil pH. 
(For best results, do this step in the Autumn prior to Spring planting.)

Step 2: 
Apply 3” – 4” aged woodchips.

Step 3: 
Evenly distribute the required amount of sulfur.

Step 4: 
Mix or rototill to thoroughly incorporate woodchips & sulfur into the soil. 
\[\text{till / mix } 6” – 8” \text{ deep}\]

Prepare Your Planting Area for Blueberries

- Blueberries require acidic soil, with a pH between 4.5 – 4.8.
- For best results, amend soil pH before planting.
- Plants can be successfully established without prior pH adjustments if you follow our instructions.
- Use sulfur to adjust the soil pH.
- Too much sulfur can be toxic to the plants so you must test the soil and measure your row length and width to determine how much sulfur to apply.
- Be careful not to plant too deeply.
- Keep soil moist throughout the establishment period.

### Amount of Sulfur in Pounds per 100 Square Feet Required to Lower Soil pH for Blueberries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT SOIL pH</th>
<th>SAND</th>
<th>LOAM</th>
<th>CLAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graphics by Janna Thompson, Nourse Farms
**Blueberry Planting**

After you have mixed the appropriate amendments into the soil you are ready to plant. (You must measure the length and width of the row(s) and test the soil to determine how much sulfur to apply.)

Dig a hole deep and wide enough to cover the plug/roots with ½” to 1” of soil. (Take care not to plant too deeply.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPACING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4’ – 5’ between plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8’ – 12’ between rows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Planting individual blueberry plants**

Dig a hole 1’ x 1’ x 1’. Mix the soil with *aged* wood chips and the amount of sulfur indicated by soil testing. If you have heavy soil you may need to add other amendments and or build a raised bed. Your local extension can advise you on this.

**Planting blueberry plants in a row**

The best method is to amend the soil along the whole row prior to planting. Then, dig holes large enough to insert the roots and cover them with approximately ½” of soil.

Graphics by Janna Thompson, Nourse Farms
Maintain Your Blueberry Plants

SOIL ACIDITY / pH REQUIREMENTS
• It is very important to regularly test the acidity of the soil and make amendments as necessary

IRRIGATION
• Year 1: 1oz ammonium sulfate in a circular band around each plant
• Following years: 2oz ammonium sulfate per plant at bloom time and again 1 month later
• Do not use fertilizers containing potassium chloride
• Do not fertilize after July

FERTILIZATION
• 1” - 2” rainfall or equivalent per week throughout the growing season

WEED CONTROL
• Mulch with 3” – 4” aged wood chips
• Avoid treated or colored bark mulch and avoid using leaves or sawdust
• Regular manual weeding is necessary
• Contact your local extension for chemical recommendations

PRUNING
• Pruning will be required annually during dormancy. Remove the lowest branches, weak branches and any that are less than 6” long. Older canes in the center of the plant should be removed to allow air and sunlight in. For more detailed pruning instructions, see our Planting Success Guide. You may wish to purchase the how-to video by Oregon State University (available through our catalog).