



## **Welcome and Introduction**

### **Blueberry Types**

- Northern Highbush
- Rabbiteye
- Southern Highbush
- Dwarf – Lowbush

### **Purchasing Considerations**

- Space available
  - o Growing in pots
  - o Growing characteristics
- Plant size and cost
- Quantity of fruit desired
- Pollenization
- Variety Considerations
  - o Chill hours
  - o Fruit size
  - o Taste/Flavor
  - o Ripening timeframe

## Planting and Growing Considerations

- Soil Prep
  - Soil test ([www.al-labs-west.com](http://www.al-labs-west.com))
  - pH – meter
  - Raised mounds
  - Peat moss
- Spacing
- Mulching
  - Materials
    - Pine needles, wood chips, grass clippings, straw, leaves
  - Thickness
  - Frequency
- Fertilization
  - Organics
    - Cottonseed meal
    - Alfalfa meal
    - Kelp meal
  - Non-organics
    - Miracid / Miracle Grow
    - Aluminum sulfate

- Others
  - Azalea, Rhododendron food
  - Soil sulfur
  - Coffee grounds
  - Vinegar
- When and What Frequency
- How Much
- Watering
  - When – moisture meter
  - How often
  - How long
- Sunburn Protection
  - Avoid reflected heat
  - Shade cloth
  - Northern facing fence or wall
- Insects, Diseases, and Predators
- Harvesting
- Propagation
  - Rooting
  - Runners
- Pruning

# Guidelines for Pruning Blueberries

## 0 – 3 year old plants

- Limited pruning only (aim to establish a cumulative growth to work with in later years)
- Remove dead, damaged, and diseased wood
- Remove low growing canes or branches whose fruit will contact the ground

## 3 – 5 year old plants

- Aim for pruning away about 1/3 of plant
- Continue removing dead, damaged, diseased wood and low growing canes
- Remove twiggy growth
- Remove or shorten long lateral shoots
- Minimize branch crossing or rubbing

## 5+ year old plants

- Aim for pruning away 1/3 – 1/2 of plant
- Follow above guidelines for 3 – 5 year old plants
- Then remove old (e.g. 5 or more years) canes or cut them back to a low healthy side shoot
- If plant has open growth, shorten canes that droop toward ground or spread far away from plant center
- If plant exhibits upright, compact growth, thin canes near the center to allow in greater sunlight

University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs and activities. (Complete discrimination policy statement can be found at [groups.ucanr.org/ANR\\_AA/files/54635.doc](http://groups.ucanr.org/ANR_AA/files/54635.doc))

Direct inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, ANR, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096