



# Planting Instructions

Thank you for purchasing bushes from our farm! We want to ensure your success with healthy bushes and trees that will produce bounties of glorious produce for you and your family for many years to come.

## Blueberries & Elderberries

### Soil:

Blueberries like acidic soil with a PH of 4.5-4.9.

- It's best to conduct a soil test which can be purchased at a local garden store or you can send it into the University of New Hampshire for testing for a nominal fee.
  - UNH website: <https://extension.unh.edu/agriculture-gardens/pest-disease-growing-tools/soil-testing-services>
- If the PH is too high, you can lower it by spreading sulfur (can be sourced at a local garden store)
- Dry, sandy loam is a good base

### Planting:

1. Plant in a full sun area
2. Plant bushes 5' apart in a row, rows 10' from one another.
3. Dig your holes twice as deep and wide as the plant pot, this is to loosen soil so roots can spread easier.
4. In the hole, mix in 50% peat moss with the native soil you dug out, **thoroughly** wetting and mixing it in.
5. Plant the bush flush with top of hole.
6. Water the topsoil again

### Mulching:

The bushes need a good 4"-6" of mulch. Pine needles, soft wood mulch, or sawdust are best. Mulch is crucial for three reasons:

1. Less weed competition
2. Water retention
3. Helps to keep the soil acidic

### Maintenance:

- Fertilizer: Slow-release organic fertilizer (limited quantities will be available for purchase at bush pick-up)
- Pruning: Not needed for the first 2 years, unless there is a dead branch.
- Blueberries like water but not to be saturated in water. Elderberries will tolerate a little wetter root.

## Fruit Trees

### Soil:

- More alkaline than blueberries: 6.5 PH

### Planting:

- Sunny location, minimum of 6 hours of sunlight.
- 15' spacing initially
- Drainage is critical, they do not do well in wet areas.
- Mix in a good, fertile tree mix or aged compost mix at time of planting.
- Guards are recommended around the base of the new trees to prevent rodent damage (limited quantity available for purchase at time of pick-up)

### Mulching:

None

### Maintenance:

- Fertilizer: Slow-release organic fertilizer (limited quantities will be available for purchase at tree pick-up)