

Blueberry Establishment & Production



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Location, Location, Location !



GIERINGER'S
Family Orchard & Berry Farm

Edgerton, Kansas



Field Selection

- Think ahead!
- Your Choice vs the Blueberry's Choice
- Poor Site = Poor Site Forever
- Think Drainage - Both Air & Water
- Full Sun
- Sloping works best

Make the best of what you have!



Field Selection

- Up and down slope if not too steep
- Tight clay soils – berms work best
- If internal drainage is good no berms needed
- Steeper slopes don't require berms



Soil Preparation

- Start at least one year in advance
- Soil Test – Fertilize to test recommendations
- Start with PH first
 - *Ideal range 4.7 – 5.0*



Soil Test

SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

LAB NUMBER	SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION	ORGANIC MATTER L.O.I. percent RATE	NEUTRAL AMMONIUM ACETATE (EXCHANGABLE)						pH		CATI EXCH CAPA CE meq/l		
			PHOSPHORUS			POTASSIUM	MAGNESIUM	CALCIUM	SODIUM	SOIL pH 1:1		BUFFER INDEX	
			P ₁ WEAK BRAY 1:7 ppm RATE	P ₂ (STRONG BRAY) 1:7 ppm RATE	OLSEN BICARBONATE P ppm RATE	K ppm RATE	Mg ppm RATE	Ca ppm RATE	Na ppm RATE				
287													
06790	1A	5.4 VH	69 VH	100 VH			390 VH	210 L	1405 VL	24	4.3	5.8	29
06791	2A	5.0 VH	36 VH	49 H			183 H	153 L	1016 VL	28	4.3	6.0	20
06792	3A	5.6 VH	33 VH	45 H			174 M	181 M	1400 L	33	4.5	6.1	21

Tissue Test

REPORT NUMBER

15-222-7042

REPORT DATE

Aug 12, 2015

RECEIVED DATE

Aug 10, 2015

ACCOUNT
32231



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PLANT ANALYSIS

INFO SHEET

SAMPLE ID	REPORT OF ANALYSIS-PERCENT							REPORT OF ANALYSIS - PARTS PER MILLION				
	N NITRO- GEN	P PHOS- PHORUS	K POTAS- SIUM	Mg MAG- NESIUM	Ca CALCIUM	S SULFUR	Na SODIUM	Fe IRON	Mn MANGA- NESE	B BORON	Cu COPPER	Zn ZINC
BLUEBERRY1	2.03	0.13	0.95	0.11	0.39	0.16	0.030	47	212	42	3	13
BLUEBERR-O	H	D	E	L	L	L-D	H	D	E	H	D	L-D
3403575 NORMS	1.70	0.35	0.55	0.20	0.60	0.23	0.020	80	50	32	8	18
Stage of growth:												



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Soil Amendments for pH Adjustment

- 1- Granular Sulfur
 - Plan ahead, as this takes time to adjust pH
- 2- Use AMS [21-0-0-24S](#)
 - This will make smaller adjustment
 - Also supply Nitrogen needs
- 3- Sulfuric Acid
 - Applied through drip with special injector
 - Caution when handling
 - Easy way to maintain pH



Water Source

- Very important to check pH of water!
- Require frequent watering's during our dry summer spells





04/07/2015



Planting Blueberries

- What's your end purpose?
 - U-Pick
 - Commercial Production on Smaller Acreage
 - Farmers Market Pre-picked
- Spacing Decisions
 - 3-5 Foot within the row
 - 10-15 foot between row spacing
 - Think equipment size for spacing
 - Mowers, sprayers, etc.





Planting Blueberries

- Potted most common
 - 1-3 year old plants
 - Prefer 2 year old
- Plant same depth as nursery
- Soil Amendments in hole
 - Wetted peat moss
 - Peat moss soil mix



04/23/2015





04/23/2015

Irrigation

- Check water pH
- To protect your investment, highly recommend irrigation
- 2 lines are better than 1
- .4-.5 Gallon per hour emitters on 2 ft spacing

Irrigation

- Low water usage
- Ease of uniform watering
- Do not overwater
- Pulse Irrigation
 - Small amounts, frequently are better than large amounts at once





Blueberry Mulches

- After installing irrigation Mulch plants
- Options
 - Woodchips
 - Ground Hay
 - Corn Stalks
 - Sawdust
 - Ground Cloth/Covers



Weed Control

- Many fail to realize just how important weed control is to early establishment and rapid growth of plants

Clean = High growth, High productivity

Weedy = Slow growth, Low productivity



Weed Control

- Be careful of your mulch choice
 - May bring in more than just mulch
 - Make sure weed free!
- Herbicide Options
 - Contact sprays vs. residual
 - Consult your fruit tree spray guide for herbicide recommendations





Variety Selection

- Duke
- Draper
- Nelson
- Legacy**
- Blue Crop
- Blue Ray
- Liberty*
- Chandler
- Patriot
- Blue Gold*
- Bonus



Trials & Tribulations on our Farm

- Weed Control
- Variety Selection
- U-Pick Observations

Actively Seek Advice

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



Questions ?



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