



How to Grow Blueberries in Houston



Can I grow Blueberries in Houston?

The hardest part of growing blueberries in Houston is managing the soil. Since blueberries don't like Houston soils (too alkaline and heavy), we highly recommend growing in containers or raised beds where you have total control of the soil mix.

You can use Life Below and MicroLife Acidifier. See our recipe for blueberry soil on the other side of this sheet.

Which Containers? Any 15-25 gallon container with good drainage holes will do. We have many options from nursery liners to decorative patio planters. Or you could build a raised bed as you would for vegetables

What about chill hours?

Chill hours are hours during which the temperature range is between **32 degrees and 45 degrees** Fahrenheit in the winter prior to blooming and fruiting.

If your bush does not receive the number of chill hours specified for its variety, it will not bear as much fruit.

In the Houston area, expected average chill hours vary by your location. Gulf and bay areas, Hobby Airport and inner-city areas average **300** or fewer chill hours per year. Pasadena and south bay area average **350 to 450 hours.**

The rest of Harris and Fort Bend counties average **400 to 600 hours.** Counties north of Harris County average **600 to 900 hours.**

Blueberry Care Tips

Give your blueberries plenty of sun and space. A minimum of eight hours of direct sun is needed for a fruitful harvest. Organic fertilizers are perfect for blueberries because the shrubs like the slow, steady release of nutrients.

Using MicroLife Acidifier every three months will provide an even flow of nutrients while helping to maintain the soil acidity.

Many growers swear by Cotton seed meal, and it has results similar to the MicroLife. If you want to do more, using a liquid fertilizer like Super Seaweed or Ocean Harvest will give your plants a boost every two weeks during the growing season.

Blueberries also appreciate consistent moisture. That means using well-draining soil, a large container and a thick layer of mulch. Blueberries have lots of fans – especially birds! If you don't want to share most of your crop with your feathered friends, cover the bushes with bird netting once the berries start to ripen.