

**Cultural Information- Vaccinium**  
*(vak-SIN-ee-um)*

<b><u>Light:</u></b>	Full sun; a southern exposure is best.
<b><u>Temperature:</u></b>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 25°F. They need a chill period at or below freezing during the winter to form flower buds.
<b><u>Humidity:</u></b>	Tolerant to varying levels of humidity, generally above 50%.
<b><u>Watering:</u></b>	Keep evenly moist when in pots, although they will tolerate drier soil conditions as long as they are not subjected to a severe wilt. Be sure to water regularly during the first year when planted in the ground if dry conditions are present.
<b><u>Fertilizer:</u></b>	Moderate feeders; apply a balanced fertilizer no higher than a 15-15-15 in spring to mid summer. Later in the growing season stop feeding so the growth can harden off for winter. They are acid loving plants so using an acid based fertilizer is beneficial. We recommend using an organic fertilizer as there is less possibility of burning the plants and there is some residual fertilizer for long-term growth. Pot grown plants need more attention to feeding than those planted in the ground.
<b><u>Pruning:</u></b>	When plants are young little pruning is needed. Once plants are mature older canes can be removed at the base allowing for younger growth to fill in. The fruit of the next season is created the following summer on the young branches. Thinning out to 5 to 7 canes with a few younger ones and some older ones will keep the plant producing year after year.
<b><u>Insects and Disease:</u></b>	Few problems with insects and diseases. Birds are the biggest problem and plants need to be covered with netting when fruit is ripening.
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	Blueberries are easy-to-grow and rewarding plants as they fruit easily without a lot of work. Potted plants can be left outside in a protected spot and a mulch placed around the pots, or pots can be sunk into the ground to protect the roots from the extremes of freezing and thawing.