Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Jelly Bean® Blueberry

Vaccinium 'ZF06-179'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

This exciting, compact dwarf variety produces glossy, emerald green leaves that develop red edges, then turn completely red in fall; abundant crop of sweet blueberries in mid summer; great for garden or patio containers

Edible Qualities

Jelly Bean Blueberry is a small shrub that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces large clusters of blue round berries which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Jelly Bean Blueberry features dainty clusters of white bell-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones hanging below the branches in mid spring. It has red-variegated green foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. It features an abundance of magnificent blue berries in mid summer.



Jelly Bean Blueberry in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Jelly Bean Blueberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.



Jelly Bean Blueberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Jelly Bean Blueberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Jelly Bean Blueberry will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have sandy, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Jelly Bean Blueberry is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.