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November 25, 2007 - 5:40:40 PM

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- [publications](#)
- [calendar](#)
- [services](#)
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- [environment & natural resources](#)
- [kids, teens & 4-H](#)



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more... > Parishes > Washington > Horticulture >

Care of Blueberries

Blueberries: Blueberry plants will put on a second flush of growth in August through October, so a final fertilizer application is needed now. Use 2 ounces of ammonium nitrate per year of age up to a maximum of 8 ounces per plant. Use urea at a 1-ounce rate per year of age on soils with pH of 5 or less. Be sure to distribute the fertilizer evenly, at least 10 to 12 inches from the base of the plant.

Blueberry Pruning: Rabbiteye blueberries are vigorous growers and can reach 6 to 8 feet in a few years. Prune back to 48 inches after harvest. Plants will have ample time to produce more fruiting wood before frost. Old, unproductive canes can be removed to ground level, leaving a maximum of 6-8 vigorous canes. Plants need to be pruned right after harvest for best results. Dormant pruning of plants during winter months removes fruiting wood and reduces yields.

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