Blueberry, Northsky

Vaccinium 'Northsky'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Group/Class: Half-High Blueberry

Description:

An extremely hardy hybrid blueberry, forms a compact mound, spectacular fall color, produces good crops of sky blue fruit in mid summer; all blueberries require highly acidic soils, excellent drainage and a good mulch, plant with Acid Planting Mix.

Edible Qualities

Blueberry, Northsky is a small shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces small clusters of blue round berries which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a firm texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

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



Blueberry, Northsky fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Blueberry, Northsky in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage. 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.

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

- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Blueberry, Northsky 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 fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It should be grown in a location with partial shade and which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. 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.

Special Attributes

In the Pacific Northwest Desert blueberry plants prefer afternoon shade, the berries are sweeter too.