Blueberry, Reka

Vaccinium corymbosum 'Reka'



Blueberry, Reka fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Group/Class: Highbush Blueberry

Description:

A versatile variety suitable for a wide range of climates; produces an early crop of medium to large, tasty berries; vigorous, bushy and upright habit; blueberries need highly acidic soil, good drainage and mulch, plant with acid soil amendment

Edible Qualities

Blueberry, Reka is a medium-sized shrub that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces 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
- Freezing

Features & Attributes

Blueberry, Reka features dainty clusters of white bell-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones hanging below the branches from late spring to early summer. It has green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. It features an abundance of magnificent blue berries in mid summer. The smooth brick red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

This is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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. Each spring, cut back all dead and two-year old canes to the ground, leaving only last year's growth standing. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

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

- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Blueberry, Reka will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. While it is considered to be somewhat self-pollinating, it tends to set heavier quantities of fruit with a different variety of the same species growing nearby.

This shrub is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. 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. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. 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 is a selection of a native North American species.

Special Attributes

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