

Caldwell Extension Center

Edible Plant Sale

Planting Information Guide

*The varieties in this sale are proven performers in Caldwell County. Strawberries and blackberries will be delivered bare root (without soil) and blueberries will be in gallon containers. Plants will need immediate care after pick up. Care instructions will be available at pick up. **All orders are due with payment to Caldwell County Extension by Friday, February 24.** Please make arrangements to pick up your plants at the Caldwell County Cooperative Extension office located at 120 Hospital Ave, NE, Lenoir (828) 757-1290 on **Friday, March 17 between 8am and 5pm.***

Tips and Considerations

Site Selection

Proper site selection is critical in growing healthy, productive plants. Strawberries, blackberries and blueberries produce best in full sun. However, blueberries can tolerate some shade. Good air circulation is important to minimize disease outbreaks. Avoid low-lying areas, or frost pockets, in order to protect spring blossoms. Good drainage is essential. If you have poorly drained soil and wish to grow fruit plants, create raised beds by mounding up the soil or by using some type of construction material for the sides. Avoid planting blackberries within 1,000 feet of wild blackberries; remove wild types where needed. Choose a site close to a water source so you can irrigate if necessary.

Soil Testing

Once you select the site, take a soil sample and submit it to NCDA-Agronomic Division for analysis. Test results will provide recommendations on the amount of lime and nutrients needed. Strawberries perform best at a pH of 6.0-6.2, blackberries prefer 6.0-6.5, whereas blueberries need a more acidic soil. It is important to incorporate nutrients into the soil at the time of planting. Information on soil testing, forms, and boxes can be obtained from the Caldwell County Cooperative Extension Service office. Soil testing is free April through November. Samples received between December and March will be assessed a \$4 fee per sample.

Pollination

Blueberries require more than one variety for good fruit set. Strawberries and blackberries will self-pollinate so do not require multiple varieties for pollination.

Note: These plants are offered at near wholesale, delivered prices. Therefore, we do not guarantee livability of plant material.

For more information consult the following publications online, or stop by the Caldwell County Center of the NC Cooperative Extension Service located at 120 Hospital Ave. NE, Suite 1, in Lenoir to pick up a copy.

Horticulture Information Leaflets

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hfruitnew.html

Growing Blueberries in the Home Garden

Strawberries for the Home Garden

Extension Bulletins

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/ag_publications.htm

Grapes and Berries for the Garden



Caldwell Extension Center Edible Plant Sale | 2017

BLUEBERRIES

\$8.00 each

18-24 inches tall, container plants

Blueberries require a well-drained soil with abundant organic matter and a pH of 4.8-5.3. They will bear well in full sun to light shade. A few inches of mulch helps reduce water stress. Under good conditions, plants produce in abundance. The following varieties produce best when at least two different varieties are planted together. Plant 6' apart.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Climax	Early	Med-Lg	Upright; good flavor; concentric ripening; medium color; rabbiteye type
Tifblue	Early-Mid	Med-Lg	Standard variety; productive; berries hold well; rabbiteye type
Powderblue	Mid-Late	Medium	Long season; no cracking; highly productive; rabbiteye type

STRAWBERRIES

\$8.00 / 25 plants

1 yr. old, bare root plants

Strawberries are easy to grow and are typically grown as a matted row. Strawberries perform best with a soil pH of 6.0. June bearing types bear fruit in the spring of the second year and every spring after that. Everbearing or day-neutral berries produce fruit the first 12-14 weeks after planting and will continue light production throughout the season.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Earliglow	June bearing	Early	Ripens late May-June; great for fresh eating, jams, and freezing; vigorous grower
Jewel	June bearing	Mid	Popular variety produces large, flavorful berries; great for eating, jams, and freezing
Monteray	Day-neutral	Everbearing	Firm, flavorful berries will produce light crop throughout the season; this variety is more tolerant of high summer temperatures.

BLACKBERRIES

\$8.00 / 25 plants

All of these blackberries are thornless and semi-erect varieties, which are easiest to manage and harvest when trellised. Summer-bearing types will bear fruit one year after planting; fall-bearing types will bear a small amount of fruit in the first fall and then in the summer or fall of the following year, depending on management. Blackberries perform best with a pH of 6.0 to 6.5.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Triple Crown	Summer bearing	Early	Excellent flavor, longer season berry, best for jams, cobblers and fresh eating
Natchez	Summer bearing	Early	High yields and big, firm fruit, good for fresh eating
Prime Ark-Freedom	Fall bearing	Early	Very large, flavorful berries that produce early. First year canes(primocanes) should have a ¾-1" tip removed when cane are 12-15 inches tall and again when branches are 30 inches tall

Caldwell Extension Edible Plant Sale Order Form

<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Variety</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
Blueberries	Climax (container grown)			
	Powder Blue (container grown)			
	Tifblue (container grown)			
Strawberries	Earliglow (25 plants)			
	Jewel (25 plants)			
	Monteray(25 plants)			
Blackberries	Triple Crown			
	Natchez			
	Prime Ark- Freedom			
	Payment Due With Order		Order Total:	

Send completed order form with check made payable to: **Caldwell Extension Center**
 120 Hospital Ave. NE Suite 1
 Lenoir, NC 28645
 Phone: 828 757-1290
 Website: <http://caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu>

***** Order pick-up is Friday, March 17 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm *****