

Table 26. Number of blueberry plants per acre at different spacings.

Feet Between	Spacing Between Rows		
	8 FEET	10 FEET	12 FEET
PLANTS IN ROW			
4	1,361	1,089	908
5	1,089	870	726
6	908	726	605

Table 27. Critical nutrient values for blueberry tissue analysis.

Element	Deficient	Below Normal	Normal	Above Normal	Excessive
N (%)	1.65	1.70	1.90	2.10	>2.10
P (%)	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.18	>0.18
K (%)	0.35	0.40	0.55	0.65	>0.65
Ca (%)	0.35	0.40	0.60	0.80	>0.80
Mg (%)	0.18	0.20	0.25	0.30	>0.30
Mn (ppm)	45	50	250	500	>500
Fe (ppm)	65	70	200	300	>300
Cu (ppm)	4	5	11	15	>15
B (ppm)	29	30	40	50	>50
Zn (ppm)	14	15	25	30	>30

Source: PennState University

Diseases

Fruit

Mummy Berry (*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*): Mummy berry is increasingly important in some parts of New England, and its severity varies from year to year. It is caused by a fungus which attacks new growth, foliage and fruit, and can cause extensive losses.

The fungus overwinters in mummified fruit on the ground. The mummies form cup or globe-shaped structures called apothecia. Apothecia produce spores that infect young tissue and cause rapid wilting. This is called leaf and twig blight, or bud and twig blight. These symptoms are difficult to distinguish from frost injury. These first infections form more spores, which are spread by rain, wind and bees to blossoms and other young tissue. The fungus infects and invades the developing fruit. The fruit becomes malformed looking like a pumpkin, and turns salmon or grey by midsummer. By fall, these fruit have dropped to the ground where they turn to mummies, ready to produce apothecia the next spring.

Management: Cultural controls can be used to reduce inoculum levels in the spring. In very small plantings, mummies can be raked up and burned. On a larger scale, mummies can be buried by cultivating between rows or by covering with a new layer of mulch at least 2" in thickness. Combining cultivation and an application of 50% urea prills in the spring speeds destruction of the mummies. Urea should not be applied to areas where there is standing water, as this may cause fertilizer burn. Apply urea to drier parts of the field and go back to the wet areas later. The cultivation should be done just as apothecia start to emerge in the spring, which usually coincides with bud-break in the blueberry bushes. Cultivars exhibiting resistance to the shoot blighting phase of the disease include Jersey, Elliott, Bluejay, Duke, Stanley and Darrow. Cultivars which appear to be more susceptible are Bluehaven, Bluegold, Northblue, Sierra, Harrison, and Coville.

Several fungicides are labeled for use against this disease. Labeled materials and state registrations change annually. Check with your Extension Specialist for current recommendations in your state.