FRUIT · OUTDOORS, ON A SUNNY PATIO WITH WINTER PROTECTION AVAILABLE

Let's grow blueberry.

Vaccinium hybrid 'ZF06-043' (Peach Sorbet)

This plan is for **Peach Sorbet compact blueberry**

Is this your plant? Choose Peach Sorbet ('ZF06-043'), a compact blueberry that can fruit on its own. This starting pot and one-shrub plan are specific to that cultivar; check other varieties before substituting.

One compact bush, with summer berries and colorful leaves.

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep **1 nursery shrub**

Before you start

Check that Peach Sorbet suits your local climate, start outdoors in spring, and arrange winter protection for the pot before harsh cold arrives.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 25, 2026 View sources ↗

LIGHT

At least 6 hours of sun

A sunny spot helps fruiting; protect the pot from extreme afternoon heat.

WATER

Keep the roots moist

Check daily in warm weather. The root ball should not dry through.

FEEDING

Small spring feeds

Use a measured acid-loving-plant fertilizer, not repeated acidifier doses.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ One weather-resistant draining pot, 16 inches wide and 12 inches deep for this starter shopping allowance
- ✓ Buy 1 × 1.5 cu ft bag. E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Acid Mix. A watering can; keep any leftover mix. A tablespoon measure for later feeding.
- ✓ 1 Peach Sorbet blueberry nursery shrub

THE SOIL

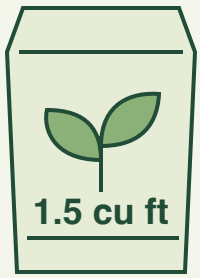
E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Acid Mix, 1.5 cu ft bag, is a ready-to-use container mix the maker recommends for blueberries. Target pH 4.5–5.5 for the plant; this product does not publish a guaranteed numeric pH, so have the medium checked. It contains nutrient ingredients.

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

TAKE THIS TO THE GARDEN CENTER

What to buy, and how much.

Buy 1 × 1.5 cu ft bag.



BLUEBERRY CONTAINER MIX

1 bag

Leave room at the rim.
Keep spare mix.

Bag-count illustration; not retail packaging. Match the product name and size below.

LOOK FOR THIS BAG	**E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Acid Mix** 1.5 cu ft bag · about 42.5 L
MIX TO BUDGET FOR	**Budget about 36 L (1.28 cu ft); the root ball and taper reduce fresh mix needed.**

Worked example: a cylindrical pot measuring 16 inches INSIDE across and 12 inches deep, filled to 1 inch below the rim. This is a shopping allowance, not a claim that every 16-inch pot has the same capacity. Do not force the entire bag into the pot.

Before adding fertilizer: This mix contains nutrient ingredients. Skip added fertilizer at planting. Ask the nursery how long its existing feed lasts before starting the later spring feeding plan; the soil maker gives no fixed feed duration. Target pH 4.5–5.5 for the plant; the bag does not guarantee that number, so have the medium checked.

If your pot is a different size

Before planting, measure loose mix into the empty pot with a marked 1 US gallon container, up to the intended fill line. Record the volume, then remove enough mix to fit the nursery root ball. A nursery pot marked "#3" or "trade gallon" is not a measured US gallon. Leave space for watering; keep spare mix for later. For a later soil-based fertilizer dose, use the total filled growing-medium volume, including the retained nursery root-ball medium. New mix added and bags bought are not that total.

Use the bag's cubic feet or liters to compare volumes. A dry quart on a soil bag is larger than a liquid quart on a measuring jug.

Compare all four starter shopping lists →

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here's the plan.

Outdoors, on a sunny patio with winter protection available. Start with **nursery shrub**.

THE POT

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep

A weather-resistant container with drainage. This starting size is for compact Peach Sorbet, not a full-size highbush blueberry.

HOW MANY

1 nursery shrub

Choose Peach Sorbet (ZF06-043), sold as a compact, self-fruitful blueberry.

THE CONTAINER

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep

START WITH

1 nursery shrub



Illustration · not to scale

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep · 1 nursery shrub A weather-resistant container with drainage. This starting size is for compact Peach Sorbet, not a full-size highbush blueberry. Choose Peach Sorbet (ZF06-043), sold as a compact, self-fruitful blueberry. Original illustration; not to scale.

01 Start with the right mix

Use the blueberry container mix in the shopping list. Target pH 4.5–5.5; have the medium checked rather than assuming the bag guarantees it. Moisten before planting. Do not add lime or extra fertilizer at planting.

02 Plant one shrub at its old level

Ease apart circling roots gently. Set the top of the root ball level with the surrounding mix, leaving watering space below the rim.

03 Water the whole root ball

Water slowly until the pot drains. Put it in a sunny spot and keep drainage holes clear. Check moisture daily during warm weather.

04 Help it settle before a big harvest

If starting with a young one-year-old plant, remove its first spring flowers so it can establish. An older nursery shrub may fruit sooner, but avoid expecting a full crop immediately.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

Other ways to start

Start in a garden bed instead

Use the same labeled shrub only if a soil test confirms an acidic site and there is room for its mature spread. Follow a garden-bed fertilizer rate, not this pot rate. Where soil is alkaline, the container plan is often easier to manage.

Choose another nursery cultivar

A different locally recommended compact blueberry can be a good choice, but check its mature size, winter needs, and whether it needs a second variety. Seeds and unverified grocery-fruit seedlings do not reproduce this named cultivar reliably.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Check daily in warm weather. Water as the surface begins drying, before the root ball dries through; wet the mix slowly and drain.

FERTILIZER

Down To Earth Acid Mix (US 4-3-6)

AMOUNT

1 tablespoon per actual US gallon of growing mix (5 tablespoons for 5 gallons of mix)

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Dry granules per total actual US gallon of growing medium, including retained nursery root-ball mix; not per gallon of water, fresh mix added, or bags bought. Measure the filled root-zone volume before planting.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Early spring and once more in late spring, at least one month apart.

WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

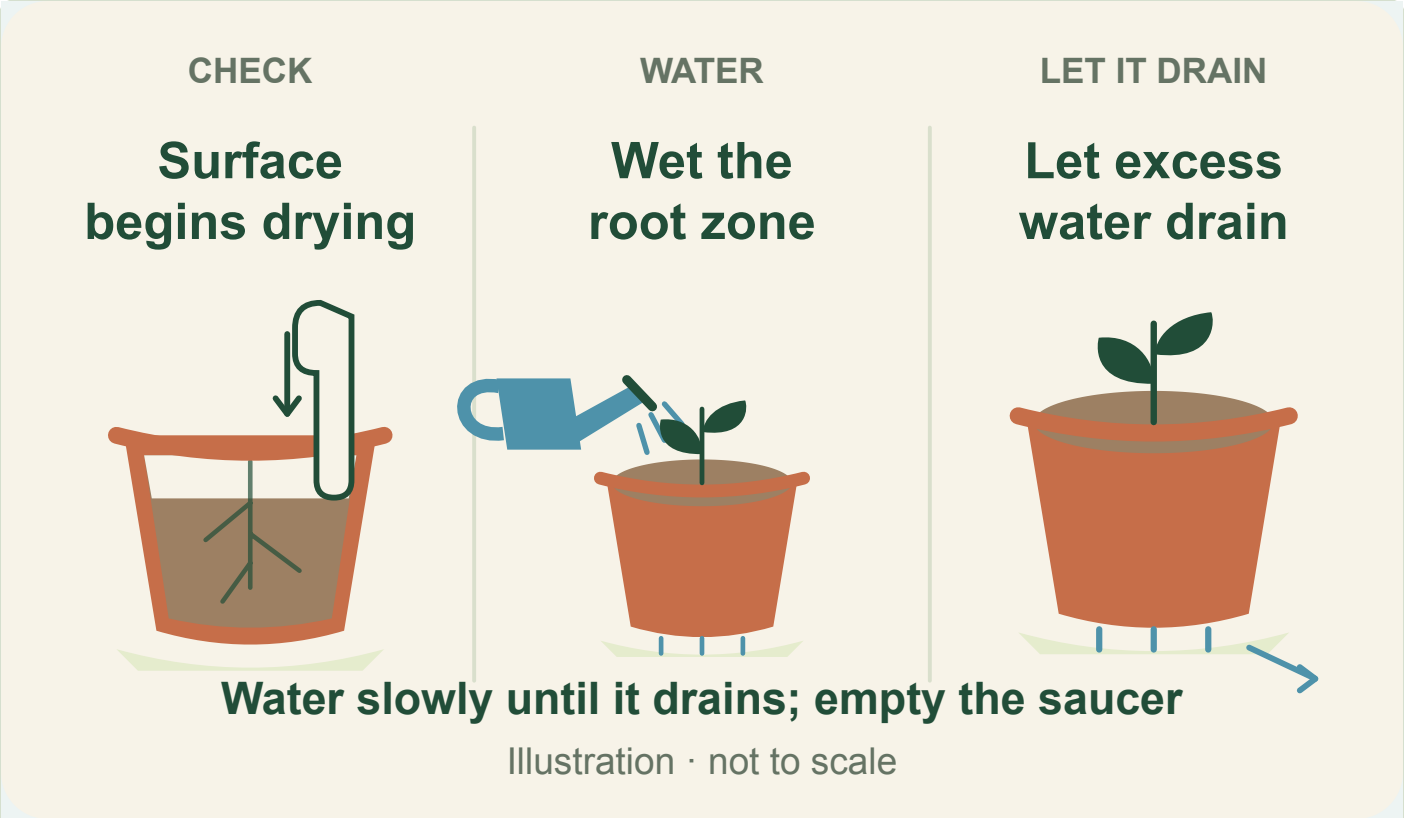
No added feed at planting. Begin only once established and the nursery or fresh-mix feeding program has ended; ask the nursery if unknown. Skip summer and fall; if planted after spring, wait until next spring.

Spread away from the stem, work in very shallowly without damaging roots, then water. This fertilizer is not a substitute for checking soil acidity.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check each morning in warm weather. Feel just below the surface and water as it begins to dry, before the root ball dries through. Wet the mix slowly until water runs from the holes. A hot, windy day may require a second check; cool, damp weather needs less water. Do not leave the pot standing in a full saucer.



Check before watering. Check daily in warm weather. Water as the surface begins drying, before the root ball dries through; wet the mix slowly and drain. Original illustration; not to scale.

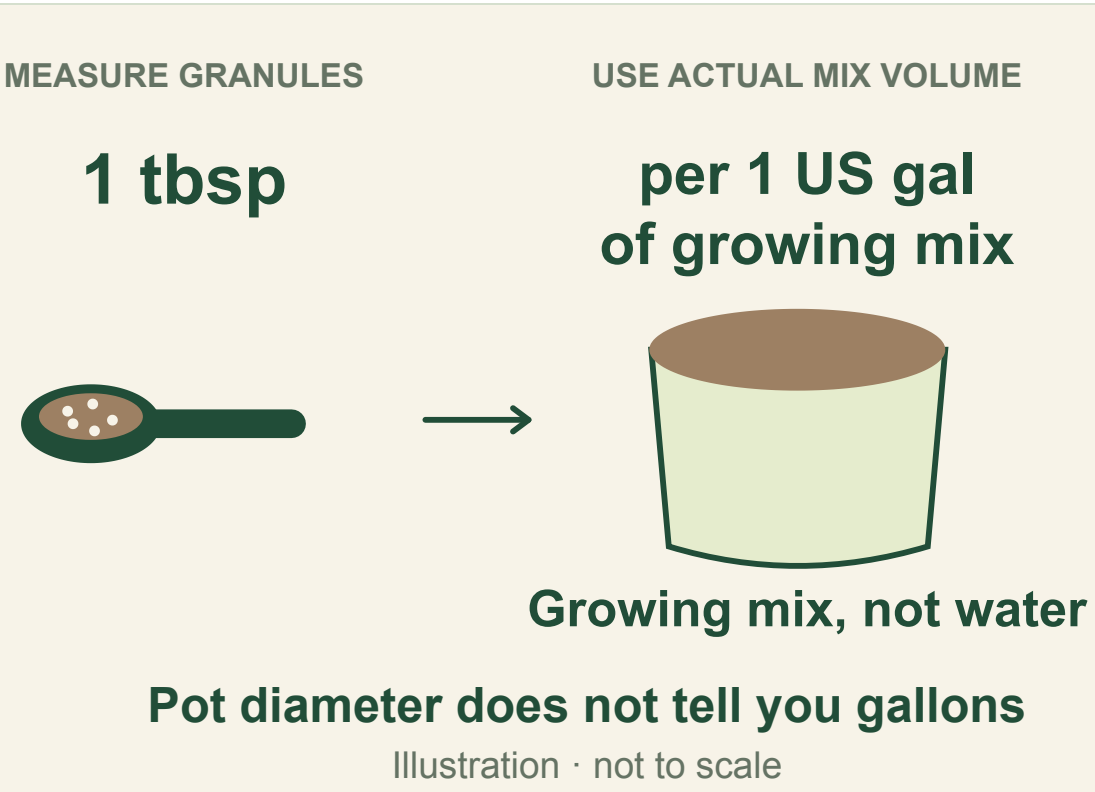
> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

No added fertilizer at planting. Begin the later routine only once the shrub is established and the nursery or fresh-mix feeding program has ended; ask the nursery if its duration is unknown. Feed in early and late spring, at least one month apart. If planting after spring, wait until the next spring.



1 tablespoon per actual US gallon of growing mix (5 tablespoons for 5 gallons of mix) Dry granules per total actual US gallon of growing medium, including retained nursery root-ball mix; not per gallon of water, fresh mix added, or bags bought. Measure the filled root-zone volume before planting. Early spring and once more in late spring, at least one month apart. No added feed at planting. Begin only once established and the nursery or fresh-mix feeding program has ended; ask the nursery if unknown. Skip summer and fall; if planted after spring, wait until next spring. Original illustration; not to scale.



US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Down To Earth

Acid Mix

4-3-6

Granular: measure onto growing mix

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

1 TABLESPOON PER US GALLON OF MIX · TWO SPRING FEEDS

Down To Earth Acid Mix 4-3-6 (US granular fertilizer)

Use 1 tablespoon of Down To Earth Acid Mix 4-3-6 per actual US gallon of total growing medium, including retained nursery root-ball mix: for example, 5 tablespoons for 5 gallons of mix. Measure the filled root-zone volume before planting; new mix added or bags bought are not that total; a 16-inch pot does not automatically hold 5 gallons. This is the lower end of the product's container rate. Distribute it across the surface away from the stem, work it in very shallowly without damaging roots, then water. Repeat once in late spring, at least a month later. This two-feed starter plan follows the breeder's spring timing; skip additional summer and fall applications.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Optional later purchase: one 1 lb box of Down To Earth Acid Mix 4-3-6. Measure tablespoons per actual US gallon of total growing medium, not water. Do not combine fertilizer programs. Package and website weight conversions differ, so this plan does not substitute grams or ounces for tablespoons.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

First berries and mature shrub size

Expect a small harvest at first, with production building as the shrub establishes. Ripe berries are fully blue and release easily. Peach Sorbet stays about 1½–2 feet tall; it is a small patio shrub, not a full-size orchard bush.

Spring planting and winter protection

Spring is the simplest starting point. Peach Sorbet is listed for USDA zones 5–10, but zone ratings do not guarantee survival in an exposed pot. Ask a local nursery whether it fruits reliably in your climate and where to protect its container over winter.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Do I need two blueberry plants?

Peach Sorbet can fruit by itself. Another compatible blueberry that flowers at the same time may improve the crop. Some other blueberry types do need a partner, so do not extend this one-plant plan to every cultivar.

Is acid-loving fertilizer the same as soil acidifier?

No. Acid Mix 4-3-6 supplies nutrients. A soil acidifier is used to change pH. If leaves yellow, check moisture, drainage, and the mix's pH before adding either. More fertilizer is not a reliable way to fix the wrong soil.

Can I keep the pot in my living room all winter?

This is an outdoor shrub with seasonal needs. In cold areas, use locally appropriate protection, such as a sheltered unheated space, and keep roots from drying out. A warm living room is not the default winter plan.

Repotting and pruning a young shrub

Give the root ball more space when needed

The breeder recommends compact blueberries for 12–16-inch-wide containers. This recipe uses the wider end. Repot as the shrub and root ball need more space; larger highbush varieties need much larger containers.

Prune lightly while the shrub is young

Remove dead or damaged growth. Avoid cutting the whole shrub back each spring: much of the next crop forms on existing wood. Check the cultivar's pruning guidance as it matures.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- Bushel and Berry: Peach Sorbet size and US hardiness range ↗
  https://www.bushelandberry.com/peach-sorbet
- Bushel and Berry: compact blueberry pots and spring feeding ↗
  https://www.bushelandberry.com/blueberry-care
- Bushel and Berry: self-pollination and winter care ↗
  https://www.bushelandberry.com/faqs
- University of Maryland: container establishment, moisture, and first-year flowers ↗
  https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-blueberries-containers
- Oregon State: soil acidity and the limits of acidifying fertilizer ↗
  https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/ec-1560-acidifying-soil-blueberries-ornamental-plants-yard-garden-west-cascades-oregon
- Product and bag size ↗
  https://www.ebstone.org/product/azalea-camellia-acid-mix/
- Volume conversion ↗
  https://www.nist.gov/pml/special-publication-811/nist-guide-si-appendix-b-conversion-factors/nist-guide-si-appendix-b8
- E.B. Stone: container use for blueberries ↗
  https://www.ebstone.org/blueberries/
- Down To Earth: established-container directions on the 1 lb label ↗
  https://downtoearthfertilizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/17803_Acid_Mix_Mini_2024-01-04_LABEL.pdf
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://downtoearthfertilizer.com/products/blended_fertilizer/acid-mix-4-3-6/

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.