

Alapaha Rabbiteye Blueberry Bush



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Vaccinium ashei 'Alapaha'

- **Use:** Part of the Georgia River Series, Alapaha (a-LAP-uh-ha) is a 2001 release of the University of Georgia. Its characteristics include late flowering (7 to 10 days after the older variety Climax) with early ripening that produces consistently high yields of excellent quality fruit. The variety flowers relatively late (7 to 10 days after the older variety Climax), which helps avoidance of spring freeze damage. Chilling requirement is 450 to 500 hours. Plant with Vernon for crosspollination
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers light, acid soils (pH 4.5-5.2) with high organic matter (20 -50%) are preferred, unlike most fruit crops.
- **Growth:** Moderate, 4-10' tall and wide; best if pruned.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 6-9; shrub
- **Pollination:** **Plant more than one variety for cross-pollination to promote adequate fruit set. Also, choosing varieties from the different ripening categories provides a broad harvest season.**
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Bluish-green foliage.
- **Flower/Fruit:** Berries are medium size and have excellent firmness, color and flavor. Their small dry scars contribute to good shelf life. Fruit ripens quickly, beginning about the same time as the Climax cultivar and is recommended as an early ripening cultivar to replace Climax wherever rabbiteye blueberries are grown successfully. A four-year study in Georgia and Arkansas showed that Alapaha productivity substantially exceeded that of Climax every year.

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