

State of Mississippi

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Agriculture Fact Sheet Blueberries 2015



- Mississippi ranks #9 in the United States in blueberry production.
- Approximately 50% of Mississippi blueberries are sold wholesale through marketing cooperatives. The remaining blueberries are sold on a pick-your-own basis or sold independently through farmers markets, small stores, etc.
- The majority of blueberry acreage is planted in the southern half of the state.
- Fresh, Mississippi blueberries are available in the marketplace from May through September with June and July being the peak harvest season.

- Blueberries grow best in a light, sandy loam and in a sunny site with well drained, but moist, soil that is high in humus.
- Blueberries are low in calories. One-half cup contains 42 calories.
- Blueberries rank above all berries as a source of food energy and are an excellent source of antioxidants, carotenoids, fiber, magnesium, iron, folate, potassium and Vitamin A, C and E.
- Don't wash blueberries until they are ready eat. The rinse softens blueberries, which can quicken spoiling, according to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.
- Blueberries will keep for two weeks if refrigerated and two years if frozen.
- Canned blueberries are available in syrup packs, water packs and pie filling mixes.
- Blueberries are related to huckleberries but are more sophisticated, have smaller seeds, are larger in size, and are sweeter.

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA-NASS



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