


















Blueberry growth stages

Flower bud development				Leaf bud development		
Tight bud	Bud swell	Bud break	Tight cluster	Early green tip	Late green tip	Shoot expansion
						
No visible swelling; bud scales completely closed.	Visible swelling of buds; scales separated. Can tolerate 10 to 15°F (-12 to -9°C).	Bud scales separated, tips of flowers visible. Can tolerate 15 to 20°F (-9 to -6°C).	Individual flowers distinguishable. Can tolerate 20 to 25°F (-6 to -4°C).	1/16 to 3/16 inch (1 to 5 mm) of green leaf tissue visible; leaves still rolled up.	1/4 to 1/2 inch (6 to 13 mm) of green leaf tissue visible; leaves starting to unfold.	Shoots expanding and leaves enlarging.

Blueberry growth stages

Flower development				
Early pink bud	Late pink bud	Early bloom	Full bloom	Petal fall
				
Partly expanded flowers are readily visible and have separated; corolla tubes (petals) short and closed. Can tolerate 23 to 25°F (-5 to -4°C).	Individual flowers fully developed and separated; corollas expanded but still closed. Can tolerate 24 to 27°F (-4 to -3°C).	Some corollas completely expanded and open; many flowers still closed. Can tolerate 25 to 28°F (-4 to -2°C).	Most flowers on the bush have opened and can tolerate 28°F (-2°C).	Corollas are falling off, revealing small green fruit; this is the stage most vulnerable to frost damage, which can occur at 32°F (0°C).

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Fruit development and postharvest				
Green fruit	Fruit coloring	~25% blue	~75% blue	Bud set for following year
				
Berries are expanding; fruit may vary from small to large pea-size in the same cluster.	Berries are changing from green to pink to blue.	First crop of berries is ripe and ready for harvest.	Berries are picked several times as they ripen. There may be 2 to 5 pickings. Berries may be hand- or machine harvested.	After harvest, the blueberry plant stores reserves and sets buds for next year's growth until leaf fall.