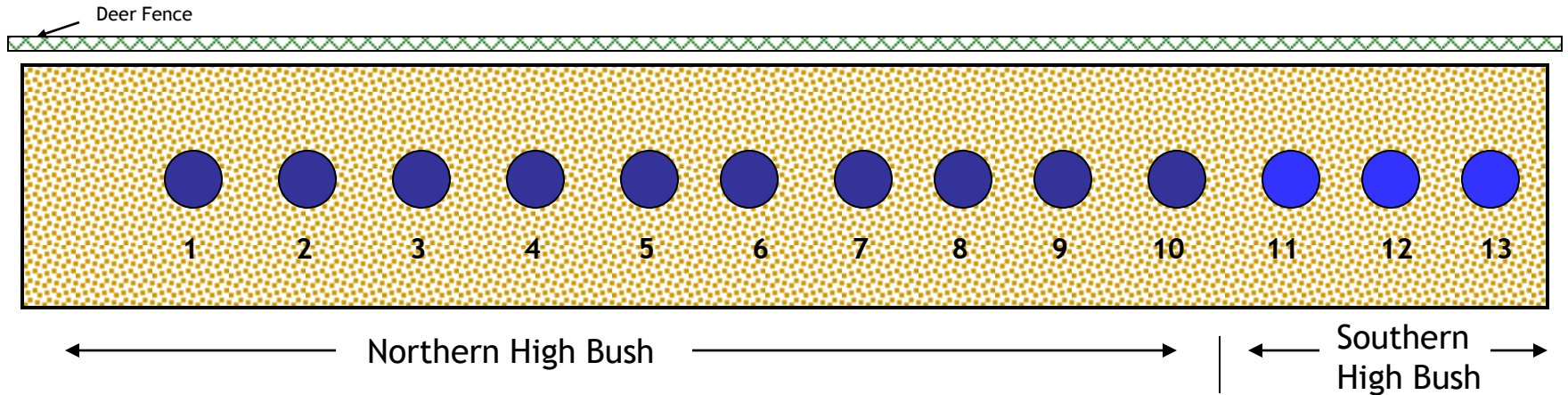


Blueberry Plants

(Bed Planted March 2009)

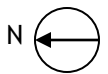


- 1 'Elliot' (Late)
- 2 'Elliot' (Late)
- 3 'Darrow' (Late)

- 4 'Blueray' (Mid)
- 5 'Blueray' (Mid)
- 6 'Blueray' (Mid)

- 7 'Patriot' (Early)
- 8 'Patriot' (Early)
- 9 'Duke' (Early)
- 10 'Duke' (Early)

- 11 'Sunshine Blue' (Mid)
- 12 'Misty' (Early)
- 13 Container plant (cultivar unknown)



Note: Garden subject to change from drawing due to weather, wildlife, etc.

Updated 6/11

Specialty Crop Profile: Blueberries

Anthony Bratsch, Extension Specialist, Vegetables and Small Fruit

Jeremy Pattison, Extension Specialist, Small Fruit

VCE VT Publication 438-103 Excerpt:

There are three types of commercially important blueberries that represent several species: (lowbush, *Vaccinium angustifolium*; highbush, *V. corymbosum*; and rabbiteye, *V. ashei*). The diversity of Virginia's climate offers suitable production areas for rabbiteye and highbush types (northern and southern). For the mountain regions of hardiness zones 6b to 5b, northern highbush is the blueberry of choice as most cultivars (cultivated varieties) can tolerate low winter temperatures (-150F).

The southern highbush types are more adapted to the lower and mid-elevation Piedmont and coastal regions (zones 7a to 8a). Because they are hybrids of northern highbush and rabbiteye types, they are more soil adaptable and heat tolerant and thus, are faster growing and quicker to produce than northern highbush blueberries. However, their winter hardiness is generally not as good as the northern highbush; therefore, their potential use in the western mountain regions of the state is restricted. Exposure to cool temperatures or "chilling hours," is needed to satisfy plant dormancy. This is measured as the number of hours during the winter months that the plant is exposed to a specific temperature range (35o to 45oF). Southern highbush cultivars have a lower chilling requirement (200 to 600 hours), than northern highbush cultivars (600 to 1,000 hours) and have a tendency to break bud during false spring conditions in late winter, resulting in flower damage. Rabbiteye blueberries are the most adaptable of all the types and will tolerate a range of soil and warm climatic conditions. Due to their sensitivity to low winter temperatures, they are best suited for regions in hardiness zones 7a to 8a, which are found in the central to lower Piedmont to the Coastal Plain regions and the Eastern Shore. Temperatures below 0° to -10° F can damage rabbiteye canes and flower buds.

To print entire publication go to:

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/438/438-103/438-103_pdf.pdf