

Vernon Rabbiteye Blueberry Bush



Vaccinium ashei 'Vernon'

- **Use:** Vernon is an early season rabbiteye blueberry with favorable fruit attributes, large berry size, high yields and excellent plant vigor. Although plants of Vernon often flower seven days after Climax in south Georgia, they can flower earlier than desired in some years when temperatures warm up quickly. However, Vernon fruit ripens early for a rabbiteye, usually several days ahead of Climax and Premier. Vernon produces a high yield of large fruit of excellent quality. Berries are large and have excellent firmness, color, flavor and dry scars, which contribute to good shelf life. Both flavor and berry size improve as fruit hang ripe for an extra few days. Developed by D. Scott NeSmith of the University of Georgia, in 2004.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers light, acid soils (pH 4.5-5.2) with high organic matter (20-50%) are preferred, unlike most fruit crops. Care should be used in fertilizing Vernon, as over-fertilization—especially of nitrogen—can promote excess vegetation that does not readily contribute to yield. The variety should be planted with other rabbiteye blueberries such as Alapaha for cross pollination.
- **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:** Large berries with excellent firmness, flavor, color and dry scars Berries are blue-black color; good fruit quality. Fruit mature in about 90 days from bloom. Blooms seven to 10 days after Climax — late February to early March in the southern growing region. Chilling requirement: 500 hours to 550 hours. **More info search online for "UGA Home Garden Blueberries"**

Early Season	Mid-Season	Late Season
Austin Alapaha Climax Premier Vernon Titan	Brightwell Powderblue Tifblue	Baldwin Centurion Ochlockonee

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