



Rabbiteye Blueberry

Vaccinium virgatum

Plant Description – Native, shrub, deciduous, perennial

Height: 10-15 ft **Width/Spread:** 6-8 ft



Leaves

Shape: Elliptical

Arrangement: Alternate

Margin: Serrate

Form: Simple

Leaf Description: Leaves are less than 1 inch wide and up to 3 inches long; dark green to blue-green; top of leaf can be slightly hairy; underside of leaf has lighter color; leaves turn red and yellow in the fall

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: White, pink, green

Flower Shape: Bell (Campanulate) **In Bloom:** Mar-Jun

Flower Description: small (less than 1 inch) flowers grow in clusters and have fused petals, creating bell shape; do not self-pollinate



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds and Suckers **Seed Type:** Fruit – Berry

Months in Seed: Spring, Summer

Fruit and Seed Description: Fruit is small, round berry that is black- blue when ripe, or pink-white when unripe; less than an inch wide and long; females must have male present to produce berries

Ecological Benefits

Nectar source for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; seed source for birds; host plant for Brown Elfyn; berries are food source for small mammals

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; for first 3 years, prune away damaged or dead branches and spent blooms; In 4th year, start pruning them in late winter or early spring by cutting them back about 1/3 of the distance to the ground and remove branches that impede air flow; feeder roots are very close to the surface and do not have root hairs - therefore, good soil moisture management and heavy mulches are needed; prefers average amount of water (*water two times per week in summer, once per week otherwise*)