**Vaccinium corymbosum** L.  
(Highbush Blueberry, Cyanococcus corymbosus, Vaccinium atlanticum, Vaccinium australe, Vaccinium constablaei, Vaccinium virgatum)

- **Vaccinium corymbosum**, also known as American Blueberry, Arándano Americano, Blueberry, Swamp Blueberry, or Whortleberry, is more widely grown for fruit production in more northern locations than *V. virgatum*, and nationwide is probably the more commonly cultivated species.
- Blueberry consumption has experienced a huge upswing in recent years, in part due to its purported antioxidant qualities related to prevention of cancer and heart disease; regardless of any potential medicinal benefits, blueberries have become available nearly year-round in grocery stores and are popular components of edible and mixed use gardens.
- Ornamentally *V. corymbosum* offers a deciduous multistem shrub of more or less rounded form maturing at 6’ to 10’ in height and potentially similar spread; the slightly arching, mildly zigzag twigs are a bright spring green on new growth, maturing to brown green and eventually a gray-brown color on mature bark; the simple elliptic to obovate leaves are glaucous imparting an overall blue-green hue; fall colors can be strong reds where temperatures favor its development; the spring flowers are small, inverted, urn-shaped, and glistening white; flowers and the subsequent blueberries are born is small axillary corymbbs; fruit are delicious and pass through a range of colors from red-pink to glaucous dark blue at maturity.
- If growing *Vaccinium spp.* for their fruit, it is advisable to plant at least two different cultivars as the plants tend to be at least partially self-sterile, thus enhancement of fruit set is facilitated by cross-pollination; flowering is typically dependent upon plants receiving the appropriate chill units below 45˚F; choosing cultivars with early, mid, and late season flowering will facilitate mature fruit over a longer harvest season.
- *Vaccinium corymbosum* requires acidic soils and good drainage for vigorous growth and fruiting; it is best if soils are between pH 4.0 and 5.5, but plants can survive in those a bit closer to neutral; soils should be well drained, but not dry as *V. corymbosum* is not drought tolerant; likewise they are intolerant of saline soils or irrigation water; plants are useful in USDA cold hardiness zones 3 to 8.

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