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Backyard Blueberries

Josh Fuder-Cherokee County

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Growing Conditions

- FULL Sun
- Soil
  - pH 4.5-5.2
  - High Organic Matter >3%
  - Well-Drained
  - Raised Bed or Mounded Rows
  - Deep Mulch
  - LOW Nutrients-previous garden sites often not a good choice
- Water
  - Drip Irrigation Ideal

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Getting Started

Fall:Pre-plant
- Soil test
- Terminate existing vegetation

Winter:Pre-Plant
- Incorporate amendments: Peat/Pine shavings
- Follow up soil test

Spring
- Planting
- Fertilization
- Shape plants
- Mulch 4-6”

Summer
- Watering
- Fertilization
- Weed Management

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Compost... Stay away

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Ag & Environmental Services Labs

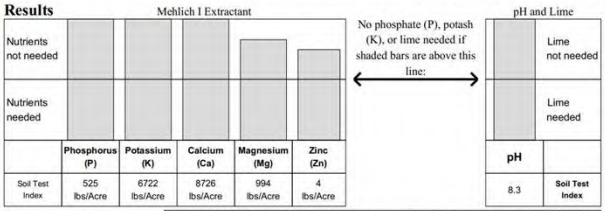
Soil, Plant, and Water Laboratory
2400 College Station Road
Athens, Georgia 30602-9105
Website: http://aesl.ces.uga.edu

Soil Test Report

Sample ID
(CEC/CEA Signature)

Client Information	Lab Information	County Information
m Woodstock, GA 30188 Sample: MM Crop: Home Vegetable Garden	Lab #36047 Received: Feb 14, 2022 Completed: Feb 15, 2022 Printed: Mar 10, 2022 Tests: S1	Cherokee County 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Suite G-49 Canton, GA 30114 phone: 770-721-7803 e-mail: uge1057@uga.edu

Results — Mehlich I Extractant — pH and Lime



	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Zinc (Zn)	pH	
Soil Test Index	525 lbs/Acre	6722 lbs/Acre	8726 lbs/Acre	994 lbs/Acre	4 lbs/Acre	8.3	Soil Test Index

Recommendations
No Limestone recommended.

Can't find a specific grade of fertilizer? Try our Fertilizer Calculator: http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/soil/fertcalc/

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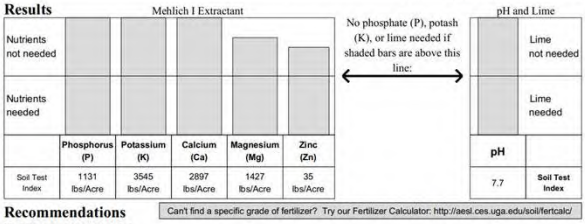
Soil Test Report

Sample ID
(CEC/CEA Signature)

Client Information	Lab Information	County Information
Woodstock, GA 30188 Sample: buck jones Crop: Home Vegetable Garden	Lab #36046 Received: Feb 14, 2022 Completed: Feb 15, 2022 Printed: Mar 10, 2022 Tests: S1	Cherokee County 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Suite G-49 Canton, GA 30114 phone: 770-721-7803 e-mail: uge1057@uga.edu

Results — Mehlich I Extractant — pH and Lime



	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Zinc (Zn)	pH	
Soil Test Index	1131 lbs/Acre	3545 lbs/Acre	2897 lbs/Acre	1427 lbs/Acre	35 lbs/Acre	7.7	Soil Test Index

Recommendations
No Limestone recommended.

Can't find a specific grade of fertilizer? Try our Fertilizer Calculator: http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/soil/fertcalc/

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Personal Experience

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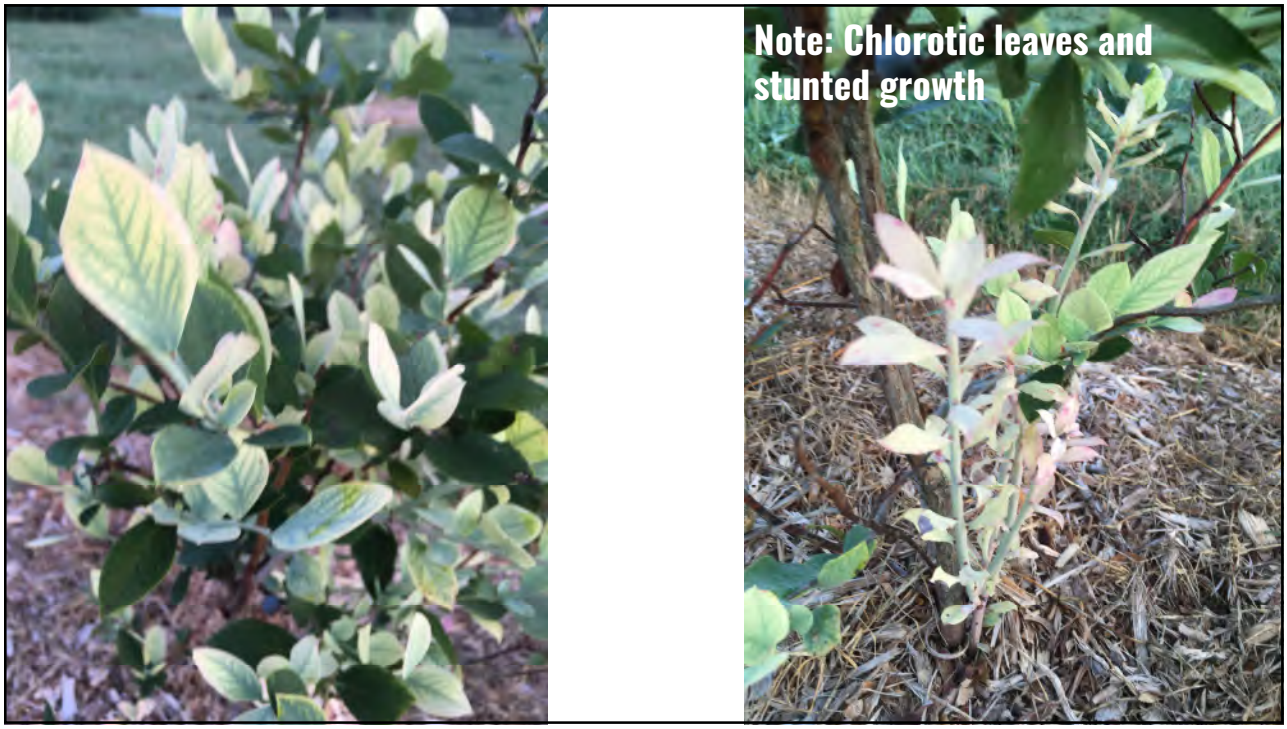
Note: Chlorotic leaves and stunted growth

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UGA extension
Ag & Environmental Services Labs

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Athens, Georgia 30602-9105
Website: http://aesl.ces.uga.edu

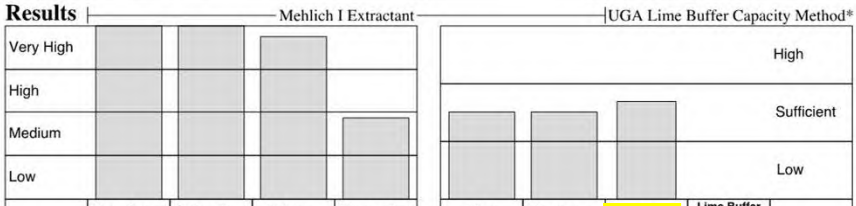
Soil Test Report

Sample ID

(CEC/CEA Signature)

Client Information		*Lab Information*	*County Information*
Fuder, Josh	jfuder@uga.edu 770-721-7803	Lab #7830 Completed: Sep 20, 2016 Printed: Sep 22, 2016 Tests: S1	**Cherokee County** 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Suite G-49 Canton, GA 30114 phone: 770-721-7803 e-mail: uge1057@uga.edu
137 Ellenwood Drive Canton, GA 30115 Sample: 1 Crop: Blueberries-Home Garden			

Results — Mehlich I Extractant — UGA Lime Buffer Capacity Method*



	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Zinc (Zn)	Manganese (Mn)	pH *	Lime Buffer Capacity (LBC)	
Soil Test Index	319 lbs/Acre	438 lbs/Acre	2253 lbs/Acre	225 lbs/Acre	12 lbs/Acre	31 lbs/Acre	4.9	610	Soil Test Index

Recommendations

Can't find a specific grade of fertilizer? Try our Fertilizer Calculator: http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/soil/fertcalc/

No Limestone or Sulfur recommended.

Recommended pH: 4.2 to 5.2

pH is Perfect!

However soil Calcium is more than double what is recommended making N and Fe unavailable to the plant

I never limed this soil but prior to houses being built this area was in cotton production and then dairy pasture

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Blueberries-Home Garden Fact Sheet for Fuder, Josh

These recommendations are for rabbiteye blueberries. For southern highbush and highbush, see Commercial Southern Highbush Recommendations (Code #133).

If the soil test calcium (Ca) level exceeds 900 pounds per acre or if the soil test phosphorus level is greater than 200 pounds per acre the site is not well suited for blueberries. Try to find a better site.

If soil organic matter is less than 2%, use liberal quantities of peat moss or pine bark mixed with the soil when planting. Following planting mulch heavily with pine bark, rotted sawdust, or pine straw if practical.

Plant the blueberry bush the same depth it grew in the nursery and spread the roots apart if pot bound.

After the plant has been settled by rain, apply 2 tablespoons (1 ounce) 10-10-10 or 12-4-8 or 4 level tablespoons (2 ounces) of azalea special fertilizer (4-8-8) evenly over a circle of 18-inch diameter centered on the plant. Refertilize at the same rate in May and July if rainfall or overhead irrigation has been adequate (at least 4 inches since the previous fertilization). **Blueberries are sensitive to excess fertilizer salts. Do not pile fertilizer at base of the plant.** In March and July of the second year apply 2 ounces 10-10-10 or 12-4-8 or 4 ounces 4-8-8 evenly over a circle of 2-foot diameter centered on the plant. In later years each bush should receive 1 ounce 10-10-10 or 12-4-8 or 2 ounces 4-8-8 per foot of bush height to a maximum of 6 ounces per application for 10-10-10 or 12-4-8 and 12 ounces per application for 4-8-8. Increase the area the fertilizer is broadcast over also. If both phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) soil test levels are high or very high, ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) can be used at 1/2 the rate of 10-10-10 or 46-0-0 at 1/4 the rate of 10-10-10. Avoid use of nitrate nitrogen (sodium nitrate, calcium nitrate, etc.) on blueberries.

Soils vary in their natural ability to supply the plant available forms of nitrogen (N). The N fertilizer recommendations given here are based on soils with 1 to 2% organic matter (OM). Soils with higher OM (4 to 6% OM) generally supply more N; therefore, less N fertilizer is needed on high OM soils. Likewise, be aware of conditions that may increase the need for additional N. On new plantings to which pine bark has been added (especially pine bark with white wood), additional N fertilizer may be needed to overcome N tie-up by bacteria. Sufficient nitrogen should be applied to grow good lateral fruit wood 5 to 8 inches in length. However, do not add too much nitrogen because it may lead to growth of highly succulent shoots that are susceptible to Botryosphaeria stem blight. In general, N should not be applied after early September in South Georgia or mid-August in North Georgia. Nitrogen fertilizer is used more efficiently if added through drip irrigation systems; therefore, recommended N rates may be reduced by about 20%. Because of these many complex factors, we recommend plant tissue analysis and grower observations as the most reliable guide for adjusting the rate of N fertilizer to apply. For more information on plant analysis, go to http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/publications/plant/.

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Blueberry Types and Varieties

- Rabbiteye
  - Not as sensitive to soil types
  - Better Heat/Drought tolerance
  - Deeper rooted
  - Adapted Statewide
- Northern Highbush
  - More Winter Hardy
  - Early Harvest window
  - Bigger Berries
  - Northernmost Counties Only

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Rabbiteye

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

Northern Highbush

Early	Mid	Late
Collins	Berkeley	Coville
Duke	Bluecrop	Elliot
Earliblue	Bluehaven	Jersey
Patriot	Blueray	Liberty
Spartan	Legacy	

Varieties

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Pollinators

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Diseases – Mummy Berry

- Overwintered spores infect flowers and young shoots in spring
- Mild-Wet conditions at Bloom
  - Serenade
  - Captan

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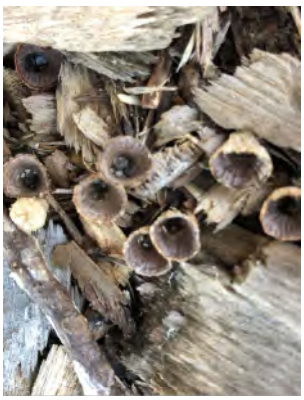

Stages of Mummy Berry

Winter Mulching → Maintain open plants for drying → Bloom sprays if conditions exist

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Diseases – Exobasidium Leafspot

- Overwintered as an epiphyte on the surface of stems
- Fruit conditions cause sunken area without decay or leakage
- Lime-Sulfur spray in Late dormancy

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Exobasidium vs Mummy Berry

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Dieback

- Poor Cultural Conditions
  - pH
  - Wounding
  - Fertility
  - Water

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July 18, 2024

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Rows with Scale

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Same Rows

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Unpruned

Pruned

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Nurseries

- Isons www.isons.com
  - Brooks – outside Griffin
- Bottoms www.bottoms-nursey.com
  - Concord -

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