

## Blueberry Sampling & Growth Stages

**Timing:** Begin sampling at early fruit set; take three samples during fruit development. Diagnostic sample may be taken at any time. Use the shoot and fruit development stages as a guide.

**Sample volume:** 20-30 shoot tips.

**Sampling:** Collect 10 cm of new shoot growth mid bush height. Sample the same plants or at least from the same area for subsequent sampling.

**Fruit Sampling:** Fruitlets are selected from around the whole bush. The sample number should remain the same throughout the sampling period. Sampling should occur at the same time as shoot sampling.

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Comments
1		<i>Leaf development</i>
	1.1	First leaves unfolding
	1.9	First leaves fully expanded
3		<i>Shoot development</i>
	3.1	Shoots growth commenced
	3.2	Shoots 20% of expected final length
	3.5	Shoots 50% of expected final length
	3.9	Shoots 90% of expected final length
5		<i>Inflorescence emergence</i>
	5.1	Inflorescence buds swelling
	5.5	Individual flowers closed but visible
	5.9	Most flowers forming a hollow ball
6		<i>Flowering</i>
	6.1	Beginning of flowering: 10% of flowers fully open
	6.5	Full flowering: 50% of flowers open, first petals falling
	6.9	All petals fallen, end of flowering
7		<i>Fruit development</i>
	7.2	Fruit size up to 20% of final size
	7.5	Fruit about half final size
	7.7	Fruit about 70% of final size
8		<i>Maturity of fruit</i>
	8.1	Beginning of ripening, pink fruit
	8.5	Advanced ripening, at least 50% of most individual fruits have turned blue
	8.7	Fruit ripe for harvest
	8.9	Fruit completely blue, some over mature fruit starts to drop
9		<i>Beginning of dormancy</i>
	9.1	Shoot growth completed, foliage still fully green
	9.7	All leaves fallen

*Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species*

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