

A close-up photograph of a blueberry plant branch. The branch is covered with green, serrated leaves and clusters of small, round berries. Some berries are light green, while others are a deep blue or purple, indicating they are ripe. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the plant and some white plastic mulch.

Blueberry Hand Pruning

July 2026



PF Berry LLC

Farm Location

Venus FL

Variety

OZblu Magica

Plant Age

6-7 Years Old

Growing System

40 liter Bag (10 gal) 70/30 coco mix

Fertigation

Continuous



Pruning Goals and Benefits

- Strong fruiting lateral branches
- Fruit Size Improvement
- Fruit Firmness Improvement
- Promote new basal growth every year.
- Remove disease inoculum and lower thrips pressure
- Lower plant profile

Longer/Stronger Laterals



Other species



23

35

15



8

10

22



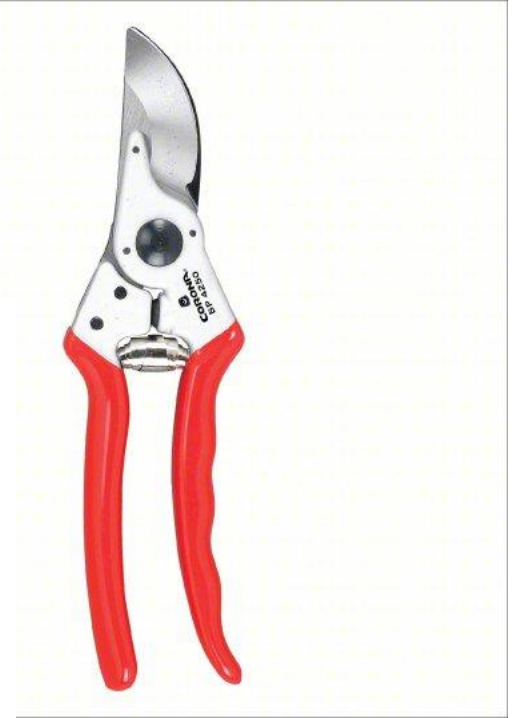
42

12

Basal Shoots



Hand Pruning Tools



Pruning Process

1. Felco Battery Pruner or 12" loppers to remove thick canes
2. Clean up and removal of twigs with pruning shears
3. Seal pruning cut with a fungicide application
4. Shred/Mulch pruning waste

Pruning Costs

Type	Cost Per Acre/2,430 plants per Acre	Cost Per Plant
Mechanical Hedging	\$110-\$165	\$0.045-\$0.067
Hand Pruning	\$607	\$0.25

Yield Comparison

- Two year limited evaluation yield difference of 910 to 2,100 lbs. per acre

January 2026

Blocks	Pruning Type	Laterals/Plant	Tot Buds/Plant	Projected lbs/Plant
3	Hedging	80	415	11.6
4	Hedging	74	361	10.1
7	Hand	80	509	14.2
8	Hand	75	502	14.0

- Yield Improvement needed to cover additional expense, 100 lbs. @ \$4.50

Pruning Types



36"



20"



15"

2026 Hand Hedging



0 Days



17 Days



57 Days

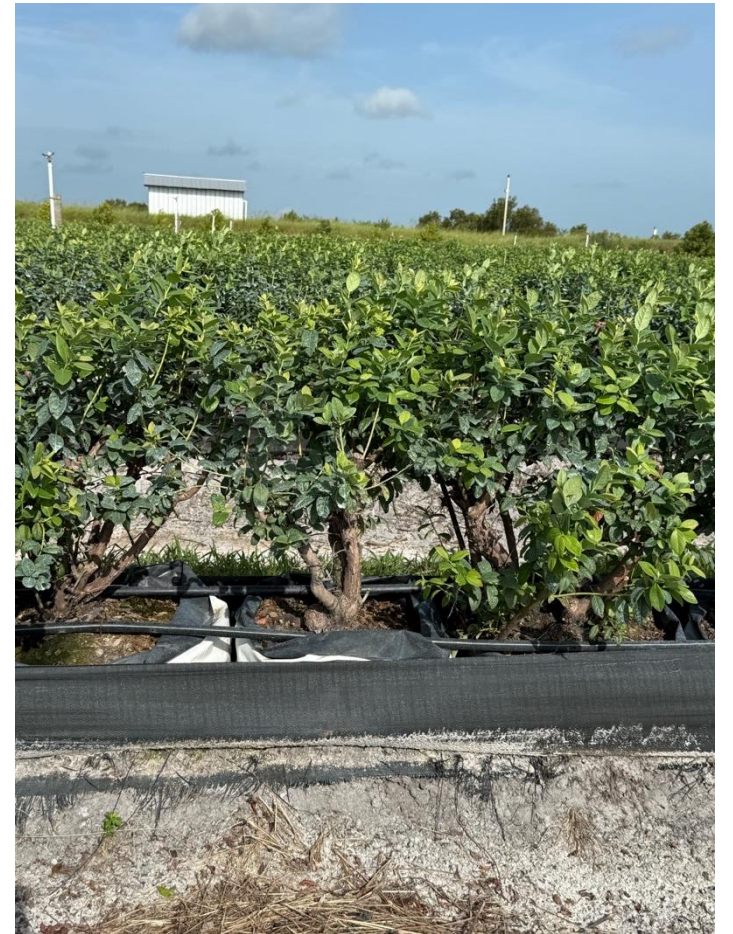
2026 Hand Pruning



0 Days



17 Days



57 Days

UF Cultivars



Before and After



Pruning Height by Season

Year 1 @ 12"

Year 2 @ 15"

Year 3 @ 18"

Year 4 @ 12"

Year 5 @ 15"

Year 6 @ 18"



If you decide to prune low

- Not all varieties tolerate low pruning
- Pruning with hot temperatures and rain increases the risk of wood fungal diseases.
- Leaving a sap drawer branch reduces the risk of infection
- Fertility needs to be adjusted



Fertility and Irrigation

- pH 6
- 1.0 EC during Vegetative stage
- 5-7 mEq/L of N during vegetative stage (70-98 ppm)
- 50/50 Nitrate/Ammonium ratio
- 350 lbs of N per acre
- 5-1-3 NPK Ratio during vegetative
- 1 gal of water per day in 4 to 6 pulses





Thank you