

***Vaccinium angustifolium* – Lowbush blueberry**

COMMON NAME: Lowbush blueberry

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Vaccinium angustifolium* – the name comes from an obscure Latin origin and refers to a European blueberry-like shrub called bilberry or whortleberry. *Angustifolium* is Latin for “narrow leaf”.

FLOWER: small clusters of nodding white flowers (about ¼ inch in size)

BLOOMING PERIOD: April with some possible blooming again in late summer

SIZE: small shrub, 10 to 24 inches high

BEHAVIOR: This low growing shrub has shallow roots so needs care when working nearby. It needs regular renewal pruning. It spreads slowly by underground runners.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Needs sandy, well-drained soil with a pH of 4 to 5.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern North American from Newfoundland west to Manitoba and Minnesota and south to West Virginia. It grows all over Wisconsin where the soil conditions are right.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The blueberries are highly prized for eating. Blueberries contain antioxidants and other disease protection chemicals. Insects are needed for pollination.

SUGGESTED CARE: Soil must be kept acidic. Plants need to be pruned to keep producing berries, but shoots will not fruit on first year growth. Pruning done in mid-summer allows new growth before winter and will increase next year’s fruit crop.

COMPANION PLANTS: Lowbush blueberry is most often found in pine barrens along with plants such as June grass, little bluestem, silky aster, lupine, rough blazingstar, western sunflower, and jack or red pine.