Native to North America, blueberries have been around for more than 13,000 years! In fact, the first commercial crop of little blue dynamos traveled from farm to table over 100 years ago and have been a family favorite ever since. Join us as we journey through the life cycle of a blueberry from tiny seed to plump berry!

**Seed**

Starting as a tiny seed, blueberries are part of a plant family that includes the flowering azalea, mountain laurel and heather plants.

**Sow**

The best time to plant your seed is in the fall or spring. While blueberry bushes are easy to grow, they do prefer a sunny location with well-drained soil and plenty of water to keep their roots moist.

**Mature**

Blueberry bushes thrive on cool nights, clear blue skies and hot days. The average height of a mature blueberry bush is about 6 feet, though some can grow up to 12 feet tall. Before bearing fruit, a young blueberry bush will be pruned its first year in order to remain healthy.

**Bloom**

In the spring, clusters of beautiful white blossoms pop up all over the bushes which are then pollinated by bees. Once the bush has matured, each beautiful blossom will become one delicious blueberry. First hard and green, then reddish-purple, and finally blue, sweet and ready to eat!

**Harvest**

Now is the time to pick nature’s little blue dynamos! Fresh blueberries are mainly picked by hand, while blueberries that will be frozen are gathered with large harvesting machines. The machines move slowly along the rows of blueberry plants and gently shake each bush gathering ripe berries in a big net below.
Where are blueberries grown?

- Blueberry bushes can pop up all over the U.S., and while 38 states grow blueberries, 10 states account for more than 98 percent of U.S. production: California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington.

- In Canada, British Columbia is the primary producing region for highbush blueberries. In South America, Chile is the largest producing country, followed by Argentina, Peru and Uruguay.

More to Explore!

If you’re near a blueberry farm, plan a field trip with your school or family! Not only will you be able to see how blueberries are grown and harvested, you’ll also be able to fill a bucket of fresh blueberries if they’re ripe for picking!