



Blueberry Varieties for New Hampshire Growers

This fact sheet was developed to help growers select among the many highbush blueberry varieties available. Growers in Northern areas should prioritize winter hardiness. We have indicated varieties that have been used widely for commercial plantings in New Hampshire, those that should be grown on a trial basis, and those best suited for home production. Information is not available for all varieties, particularly newer releases. Remember that flavor and preferences vary, and for any new planting, multiple varieties should be selected to increase the likelihood of success in your specific location.

Varieties		Yield	Flavor	Disease Tolerances	PROS	CONS
EARLY	a Bluetta	3	2	M, P	- Early, hardy, good flavor	Small dark berries, large scar
	a Duke	3	2	M	- Productive, attractive firm fruit	Flavor, bush vigor
	b Hannah's Choice	2	3	-	- Flavor	New release (2000), hardiness?
	Earliblue	2	1	-	P Early, upright	Productivity, flavor
EARLY-MID	c Bluejay	2	3	M	- Quality fruit, nice landscape plant	Less productive
	a Blueray	3	3	-	B Hardy, productive, flavor, large	Spreading bush
	Meader	2	2	-	- NH release, flavor, quality	
	a Patriot	2	3	RR	- Early, productive, flavor	
	c Spartan	3	4	M	- Large, firm, flavor, nice fall foliage	Needs cross-pollination
	b Reka	3	-	-	- Tolerant of wetter ground	New release
MID-SEASON	a Bluecrop	3	3	M	- Yields, quality, widely adapted	Can't tolerate poor drainage
	a Nelson	3	4	-	- Productive, quality	
	Rubel	2	2	F	-	Flavor, small fruit
	b Little Giant	-	4	-	- Anthocyanins, lowbush flavor	Very small fruit, new (1996)
	Sierra	-	-	-	M Productive, large, firm	Less hardy
	b Toro	-	-	-	- Productive, large fruit	Upright, thick canes
	b Caras Choice	-	-	-	- Fruit quality	New release (2000), hardiness?
	Herbert	-	-	-	- Fruit quality	Inconsistent in colder climates
	a Chandler	-	-	-	- Good for PYO	Long harvest window
	Bluegold	3	3	-	M Quality	Twiggy bush, mummyberry

Varieties		Yield	Flavor	Disease Susceptibility	Tolerances	PROS	CONS
MID-LATE	Coville	2	3	M, F	M	Large, tart fruit	Yields
	Elizabeth	2	4	-	-		Quality, hardiness, productivity
	Berkeley	3	-	-	-	Productive, large firm fruit	Hardiness, large scar
	a Bonus	-	-	-	-	Huge fruit	
	Legacy	-	4	-	-	High quality fruit	Hardiness, slow to produce
	a Jersey	3	2	M	-	Productive, flavor	Shelf life
	Lateblue	3	3	M	-		May ripen too late
LATE	a Elliot	4	2	M, P	-	Productive, large firm fruit	Flavor
	b Aurora	-	3	-	-	Latest variety, flavor	New release, needs pollination
	Brigitta	2	3	-	-	Productive, large fruit	Hardiness
	b Liberty	3	3	-	-	Late, firm attractive fruit, flavor	New release, needs pollination

Half-High Varieties (highbush x lowbush)

EARLY-MID	Polaris	2	4	-	-		
	c St. Cloud	3	4	-	-		
	a Northblue	3	3	-	M		
	a North Country	2	3	-	-	Hardy	Med-small fruit, short bush
	a Northland	4	3	-	G	Hardy, productive	Pruning, soft berries, Gibbera
MID	a Friendship	2	4	-	-	Hardy	Quality
	Northsky	1	4	-	-	Hardy	Med-small fruit, short bush
	Chippewa	2	3	-	-		

a Suitable for commercial growers

b Suitable for trial

c Suitable for home gardeners

Diseases: (M) Mummyberry; (RR) Phytophthora, (B) Botrytis,

(F) Fusicoccum, (P) Phomopsis, (G) Gibbera blight

Yield (1-4, low-high); **Flavor** (1-4, weak-very good), "-" info not available

Information has been compiled from many sources including Cooperative Extension publications and specialists' expertise, research studies, and nurseries. For more information, please contact your local UNH Cooperative Extension Educator.

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