

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 and only plant those classified as very hardy. 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 preferences vary, and for any new planting, multiple varieties should be selected to increase the likelihood of success in your specific location.

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

Varieties		Yield	Hardiness	Resistant to:	Susceptible to:	PROS	CONS
MID-LATE	Berkeley	3	L	-	M	Productive, large firm fruit	Hardiness, large scar
	a Bonus	-	H	-	-	Huge fruit	Little tested, new release
	Brigitta	2	MH	-	-	Productive, large fruit	Hardiness, lower yields
	Coville	2	L	M,F	-	Large, tart fruit	Yields
	Elizabeth	2	MH	-	-		Quality, hardiness, productivity
	a Jersey	3	H	M	-	Productive, flavor	Shelf life
	Legacy	-	MH	-	-	High quality fruit	Hardiness, slow to produce
LATE	b Aurora	-	-	-	-	Late, flavor	New release, needs pollination
	a Elliot	4	H	M, P	-	Productive, large firm fruit	Flavor
	Lateblue	3	H	M	-		May ripen too late
	b Liberty	3	-	-	-	Late, firm attractive fruit, flavor	New release, needs pollination

Half-High Varieties (highbush x lowbush)

Early-Mid	a Northblue	3	VH	-	M	Productive	
	a Northcountry	2	VH	-	-	Hardy	Med-small fruit, short bush
	a Northland	4	VH	-	G,M	Hardy, productive	Pruning, soft berries, Gibbera
	Polaris	2	VH	-	-		
MID	c St. Cloud	3	VH	-	-		Requires pollinizer
	Chippewa	2	VH	-	-		
	a Friendship	2	VH	-	-	Hardy	Quality
	Northsky	1	VH	M	-	Hardy	Med-small fruit, short bush

a Suitable for home and commercial growers

b Suitable for trial

c Suitable for home gardeners only

Yield: (1-4, low-high).

Hardiness: (VH) very hardy, (H) hardy, (MH) moderately hardy, (L) limited

Resistant to and Susceptible to Diseases: (M) Mummyberry; (RR) Phytophthora, (B) Botrytis, (F) Fusicoccum, (P) Phomopsis, (G) Gibbera blight.

" - " 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.

Blueberry production resources:

Highbush Blueberry Production Guide, NRAES-55, 200 pages.

Available at <http://www.nraes.org>

Growing Highbush Blueberries.

Available at http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000009_Rep9.pdf

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