

PLEASE NOTE:

These observations have been made in Gippsland, Victoria. Different locations, seasons and cultural methods could show different results.

NORTHERN Highbush

Approximately 750-1200 hours chilling required for proper dormancy. Mainly self fruitful, but will perform better planted with another variety. Main type of blueberry for the cooler areas of Australia.

Duke (Commercial Grower ONLY)

This variety is grown widely around the world for its high yields of early, large, mild tasting fruit. The bush is generally upright and vigorous. Although only new to the Australian grower, early indications are for a bush with enormous yield potential that is one of the first varieties to ripen.

Northland

Spreading, vigorous bush to 1.5m. Very productive with medium size, dark, sweet fruit. Large picking scar makes fruit unsuitable for wholesale market sales, but is an excellent variety for U-pick, local sales, and for processing. Fruit hangs without dropping and gets progressively sweeter. Northland seems to tolerate extremes in temperature.

Denise

Medium vigour and height to 1.5m, with slightly spreading growth habit. Fruit is very large and round, medium blue with red around stem end. Distinct tangy flavour. Heavy yields of big, attractive berries, makes this variety very popular with some growers. Berries usually delicious but can lose flavour once very ripe. Also, can tear at picking scar. Seems to perform well in warm areas. Good for fresh sales including U-pick but does not store well.

Bluerose

Vigorous upright growth habit to 2.1m, with very dense foliage. Heavy yields of light blue, medium size, slightly tart fruit. Very lengthy ripening season running for eight weeks or more. Expensive to pick relative to Bluecrop and Brigitta due to dense foliage (ie. pickers have to search for fruit). Berries sometimes are inclined to be soft and tender during periods of hot weather. Suited more to cooler districts. Heavy yields of attractive tasty berries that don't drop make this a good U-pick and processing berry.

Bluecrop

Moderate vigour, but very productive, height to 2.1m. Fruit is light blue, very large and firm with good flavour. Flavour is best with the first few picks and seems to be better in areas where warm days are followed by cool nights. Small picking scar – excellent fresh fruit. Most popular variety world wide. Bush requires excellent drainage. Very easy and cheap to hand pick in relation to other popular varieties. Can have a percentage of fruit that stays red and doesn't ripen properly, but very consistent yields year to year when pruned correctly.

Brigitta

Tall, vigorous upright bush to 2.4m, with high production. Very large, medium blue, firm fruit with good flavour. Excellent picking scar and keeping quality. This Australian developed variety Brigitta is now being widely grown world wide. Clusters can be tight and the bloom damaged easily. Ripens two weeks after Bluecrop with similar size berries. Fruit can drop easily so care when hand harvesting is required. One of the best keeping and shipping varieties available. A favourite with exporters. For pollination purposes it is best if planted near another variety.

Elliott

Medium vigour, semi upright bush. Extremely heavy yields of small to medium, powder blue, firm, slightly tart berries. Berries come off in just a few picks. Extremely light blue berries, although not huge, are very attractive. Berries soften with extreme temperature. Suits cooler districts.

SOUTHERN Highbush

This group have a low chill requirement of 250-600 hours. Suitable for those areas where lack of chill is a consideration. Generally self fruitful, but best if planted with other highbush varieties.

O'Neal

Bush has medium vigour and a slightly spreading habit. Berries medium size, firm, very sweet, excellent scar. Very low chill requirement and seems to tolerate hot conditions. Likes a pH value below 5.5.

Magnolia

A stout, attractive bush showing good vigour. Heavy yield with large berries, sweet aromatic flavour and excellent bloom.

Legacy

Bush has a very vigorous upright habit. Heavy yield with medium to large berries, tasty, sweet flavour and good bloom.

Rabbiteye

Native to Florida in the USA. Rabbiteye are generally non-deciduous, and require less chilling than northern highbush, for satisfactory bud break in spring, about 450-600 hours. A different Rabbiteye variety should be planted nearby.

Britewell

Vigorous, upright bush with heavy yields of large fruit. Good flavour and scar, but has gritty texture and tough skin. Fruits with Premier several weeks earlier than Tifblue. Excellent bush shape.

Premier

Bush has moderate vigour with nice, sweet flavoured, medium to large fruit. Excellent fruit colour and scar.

Powderblue

Tough plant with moderate vigour and small to medium light blue fruit. Very similar in looks to Tifblue, but fruit is smaller.

Tifblue

Released in America in 1955. Still widely grown and accepted as the benchmark for all rabbiteye varieties. Bushy upright vigorous growth, medium to large light blue fruit.

T102

Vigorous, spreading bush. Large firm fruit with good flavour. Berry is dark and somewhat flat with a very big calyx. Can split after heavy rain. Ripens a week or so after Tifblue. Very heavy yields.

