

# Fruity Super Heros



## BLUEBERRIES

It's official. Kids love blueberries. They especially like filching them direct from the plant! Blueberries are expensive to buy by the punnet, but they are easy to grow, so why not plant some in your own garden. The fruit, high in antioxidants and vitamins, is often produced in the first year after planting, then up to 10kg/plant per year.

Blueberry plants are not only highly productive, they're extremely ornamental too. These tidy shrubs are attractive throughout the year, with most varieties turning a blaze of orange-red during autumn. They can be grown as a hedge, growing up to 1.5m tall, but can be pruned to just 1m tall after fruiting.

Plant a mix of varieties for cross-pollination and to spread your picking season from as early as November through to March. Buy a bag of peat with your plant to acidify the soil. Blueberries love a pH of around 4.5. Mulching with composted sawdust or pine needles is also recommended.

Autumn is a great time for planting fruit and berry plants. Get these established before winter and they will thrive next spring and summer.

### BUY NOW

Look for blueberry plants grown by Waimea Nurseries in garden retailers nationwide.

**For more information including a full list of stockists visit our website:**  
[www.waimeanurseries.co.nz](http://www.waimeanurseries.co.nz)





# BLUEBERRY VARIETIES

## NORTHERN Highbush

Best for southern areas, as the plants go into winter dormancy so can tolerate cold weather and frosts. Also later flowering in spring so there is less risk of frost damage.

### EARLY SEASON (Early - Mid December)

**Blue Jay** Great crops of medium size, mild flavoured berries that will stay on the bush for long periods without loss of fruit quality. A vigorous grower.

**Duke** Produces good crops of mildly sweet flavoured berries. Upright grower, but branches will droop to ground when laden with fruit.

**PBBB** 'Pat Bates Big Blue' produces very large, very tasty fruit, ripening very early in the blueberry season. A small bush habit.

**Reka NEW** Produces large clusters of firm, medium sized dark blue fruit with good flavour.

### MID SEASON (January)

**Atlantic** An excellent variety with large crops of sweet, tasty, light blue coloured berries. Mid season. Bush has an upright vigorous habit.

**Bluecrop** Fairly vigorous, upright productive selection that is both hardier and more drought resistant than most varieties. Large, light blue berries. The only truly self fertile variety.

**Dixi** Great home variety. Rich tangy-sweet flavour. Great in jams. Ripens over a long season. Mid season. Large, fragrant berries.

## SOUTHERN Highbush

Good for warmer areas of NZ as these varieties don't require cold winters to produce fruit ('low chill varieties'). These varieties will also tolerate cold winters, but flower quite early in spring so may require protection from frost.

### EARLY SEASON (Early December)

**Marimba** Highly attractive and productive. Berries are medium-large sized, firm with excellent flavour.

**Misty** A most attractive selection with bright blue-green foliage holding well into winter. The berries are medium to large size and excellent quality.

**Petite Blue** Produces small, very sweet and tasty fruit produced in good quantities and ripening over a longish period. Potentially crops twice per season.

### LATE SEASON (April) Petite Blue (2nd crop),

## RABBITEYE

These varieties are good for planting in all areas of NZ.

### EARLY SEASON (January)

**Climax** Medium to large dark blue berries with a very good flavour. The bush has an open and upright habit.

### MID-LATE SEASON (February)

**Tifblue** Tall, vigorous, upright grower. Large, highly flavoured berries.

### LATE SEASON (March)

**Centurion** An excellent variety with heavy crops of small-medium sized berries, with a long fruit season.

**Delite** Small, light blue fruit with excellent flavour.

**Powder Blue** Good sized, excellent quality sweet dark blue fruit. Upright highly productive plant.

**Southland** Good size fruit of good quality. A compact, upright grower with dense foliage.