

Blueberry Management Guide

Variety: Draper

Planting/Site Selection	Should not be planted in low wet areas, and rows must be hilled as it does not do well with wet feet. Use caution when planting in Surrey and Cloverdale areas because of heavy wet soils. Can be planted at higher plant density Requires optimal pH and fertility
Young Plant/Establishment Needs	Plant has a horizontal growth habit: may benefit from cartons and trellising in second full season after planting to force plants to grow vertically. Apply fungicides before using cartons.
Appearance/Plant Habit	Stocky, lower vigour than Duke Horizontal growth unless otherwise trained
Pruning/Maintenance	Propensity to produce basal growth Plant overproduces fruit buds for its size especially when plants are young Prune to limit fruit production in formative years
Fertilization	Excessive nitrogen can exacerbate fruit drop issues Calcium preferentially allocated to leaves, can cause a premature green fruit drop. Critical to fertilize to balance fruit and vegetative growth
Pollination	Requires more bee hives/acre than Duke. Less attractive to honeybees than Duke
Frost Susceptibility	Susceptible to frost-induced cane injury
Excessive Soil Moisture Tolerance	Requires excellent drainage

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Disease/ Insect Susceptibility	Areas prone to frost will have higher incidences of Bacterial Blight (<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>) and Phomopsis Canker (<i>Phomopsis vaccinii</i>). Susceptible to Godronia and Phomopsis Canker (<i>Phomopsis vaccinii</i>), Silver Leaf Slower than Duke to get Shock Virus Susceptible to root rot Fungicide application recommended immediately after pruning
Trellising	Trellising is recommended after cartoning to promote vertical growth and prevent berries from touching the ground. Trellising is recommended if machine harvesting and for food safety
Machine/Hand Harvest	Potential to be machine harvested for the fresh market. Check with your packer before proceeding Can machine harvest if trained properly
Yield/Timing	Early-mid season High yield potential Concentrated ripening
Market	Fresh & Processed
Berry Flavour	Mild
Fruit Size	Large

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Firmness	Very firm
Shelf life	Very good shelf life
Colour	Light blue
Scar Quality	Small Scar
Other Comments	Requires good management program and can be challenging to grow Requires good cultural management expertise

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