

Blueberry Management Guide

Variety: Draper

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| 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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