

# Blueberry Management Guide

Variety: Liberty

Planting/Site Selection	Should not be planted in low wet areas
Young Plant/Establishment Needs	Susceptible to phomopsis canker so use fungicides starting in early years and continue annually Needs cane support early
Appearance/Plant Habit	Very vigorous Lanky/willow growth, breaks easily at the crown, susceptible to wind damage breakage
Pruning/Maintenance	Requires a lot of thinning and pruning to get consistent fruit size (more time) Maintain a good balance of first and second-year wood Prune for consistent size and to prevent biennial bearing
Fertilization	Moderate Nitrogen requirement Can show abnormal Magnesium tissue levels Do not over feed plants
Pollination	Requires more bee hives/acre than Duke. Less attractive to honeybees than Duke Narrow corolla, difficult for honeybees to pollinate
Frost Susceptibility	Sensitive to damage if tissues are not fully hardened off in the fall
Soil Moisture Tolerance	Susceptible to drought, irrigation is critical for growth and fruit quality (softness)
Disease/ Insect Susceptibility	Susceptible to Phomopsis Canker ( <i>Phomopsis vaccinii</i> ) Very susceptible to Shock Virus Increased susceptibility to SWD because of late season harvest

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Trellising	Trellising is strongly recommended. Trellising is recommended if machine harvesting and for food safety
Machine/Hand Harvest	Must hand-pick first pick Fruit comes off easily, many greens Challenges in machine-harvesting for fresh, consult your packer Can machine harvest later in the harvest cycle
Yield/Timing	Mid-late season High yield potential, tendency towards biennial-bearing Long ripening season
Market	Intended as a fresh variety
Berry Flavour	Excellent
Fruit Size	Medium to large, can produce a significant number of small (shot) berries
Firmness	Has a tendency to go soft especially in hot weather or poor irrigation situations Medium-firm under optimal conditions (similar to Duke)
Shelf life	
Colour	Very light blue

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Scar Quality	Very small scar
Other Comments	Low tolerance to high heat, turns fruit soft