

Haskap and Honeyberry Update – 2013

The haskaps and honeyberries are one of our more challenging fruits to harvest. The most difficult ones are the varieties that require each berry to be plucked from its stem. The ones that drop easily when they are ripe are a challenge as well, since the berries fall onto the mulch in the wind, or they fall as you are trying to maneuver a catch cloth, box or just your hands under the shrub.



A second factor in harvest ease is whether all of the berries ripen at the same time. Most varieties bloom over a long time and, actually, I don't think that there is a single variety that blooms in one short burst. Therefore, harvest is a compromise if you want to do it in one shot. You will need to keep tasting for increased sweetness and decreased acidity and then try to pick before they all fall on the ground – or turn to mush if the fruit clings to the branch.

The great reward of haskap is how delicious (and nutritious) they are!

I was again disappointed in the level of production from these plants with the best production seen in the Japanese haskaps (Dr. Thompson's). This may be attributable to the April freeze in 2012, or the dry summer that followed. There just weren't a lot of blooms/berries on any of the plants. We definitely need to try to irrigate some of the plantings to see if this can bring production up.

In general, berry size was down this year and sugar content was up. Only the Oregon (Japanese) haskaps had lower sugar content than previous years, but I think we picked a bit early due to Juneberry harvest occurring at the same time.

Name	Production (lb)				Berry Wt (g)	°Brix	Notes
Russian	2013	2012	2011	2010	Ave	Ave	4 plants each
Berry Blue	4.6	10.1	12.6	9.3	0.45	16.3	Largest shrub
Blue Belle	3.7	3.8	6.2	5.6	0.64	16.6	Fruit falls when ripe
Blue Moon	9.9	11.6	x	3.5	0.94	12.7	Tart
Blue Velvet	6.7	4.0	x	2.7	1.32	13.8	Tart
Kamchatka	x	3.1	6.4	2.0	x	x	Production is low
Canadian	2013	2012	2011	2010	Ave	Ave	5 plants each
Borealis	7.9	2.7	0.5	x	0.74	14.0	Tart
Tundra	3.6	5.2	4.0	x	0.60	15.6	Better
Indigo Gem	4.4	7.7	4.8	x	0.79	16.0	Best flavor
Indigo Treat	0.6	2.1	1.4	x	0.50	15.5	Tart
Oregon	2013	2012	2011	2010	Ave	Ave	3 plants each
22-37 ^D	7.0	7.4	2.4	2.3	--	13.8	Out of study
41-100 ^D	4.4	13.3	2.8	3.8	0.90	--	Out of study
43-87	5.3	12.0	4.4	1.1	1.61	13.7	Sweet and tasty. Ripens first.
43-97	4.1	5.4	3.2	3.4	1.37	14.7	More tart, mealy. Last to ripen.
45-57	5.7	6.2	4.4	3.3	1.47	--	A few days later. 2nd best.
85-26 ^D	7.0	13.4	6.2	3.9	--	14.0	Out of study

D = dismissed from trial in 2012