

Sweet Duchess (TH-1321)



- Blueberry type:** Southern Highbush
- Released:** 2018 Selection
- Key attributes:** Sweet Duchess has been exclusively released to TopFruit as a commercial selection. This very low chill, very early ripening variety has firm, flavourful berries with good production potential. Recommended to plant in cool Western Cape Regions as well as areas such as the Limpopo and sub-tropical regions.
- Chilling Required:** Very low chill (-50h < 7.2C) Evergreen type suitable for all climates. Also recommended for sub-tropical regions.
- Flowering:** Flower bud break April/May in Limpopo & May/June in the Western Cape PDF = 85 Days
- Pollinator:** Self-pollinating, bees are required at 8-10 hives per ha.
- Harvest:** Very early season production: Ripens mid-June to October in a warm climate like Limpopo and from August to November in the cooler Western Cape and KZN regions. Ripens in April/May in sub-tropical areas such as Zambia.
- Plant Vigour:** Semi-upright with good vigorous and spreading growth.





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- Yield:** Good (18 - 25ton/ha) Production of 1.75kg/bush in 1st year, 2.5kg/bush in 2nd year & 3.5+kg on mature plants. Excellent yields in Zambia as well.
- Berry size:** Large size fruit (1.7 – 2.8g/berry), ranging between 14-22mm.
- Bloom:** Very good bloom; light blue
- Picking Scar:** Small dry scar
- Firmness:** Very firm with good shelf life, average 80 on Durofel metering.
- Flavour:** Crisp & sweet with good brix (12-14^o), average acidity, very good eating with outstanding flavour
- Disease:** Little rust has been observed in high-rainfall regions
- Licensed countries:** South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Blueberries

Ripening Schedule (Western Cape - North One Month Earlier)					
July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern SA	Sweet Duchess				
	Northern SA		Gladiator		
	Northern SA	Maverick			
		Miss Jackie			

