

Early Duchess (TH-1334)



Blueberries

- Blueberry type:** Southern Highbush
- Key attributes:** Early Duchess has been exclusively released to TopFruit. This very low chill early ripening variety has very large, firm, flavorful berries with extensive production potential.
- Chilling Required:** Low chill (-100h < 7.2C)
- Flowering:** Flower bud break May.
PDF = 80 Days Flowers two weeks before Star.
- Pollinator:** SH variety with similar flowering time.
- Harvest:** Very early season production: Ripens 3 weeks before Star. (August to October)
- Plant Vigour:** Good vigorous growth.
- Yield:** Good (20 - 25 ton/ha).
- Berry size:** Very large size fruit (1.8–2.2g/berry), from 14-25mm.
- Fruit shape:** Round with small flower end.
- Colour:** Dark to medium blue
- Bloom:** Good bloom; dark blue
- Picking Scar:** Small dry scar. Pick very easily.



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Firmness: Very firm with good shelf life, much firmer than Star.

Flavour: Crisp & sweet with good brix, average acidity.

Disease: No Botryosphaeria spp. have been found.

Licensed Countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Kenia, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi.

Evaluation Results

Comparative Results

Selection	Chill Hours	Berry Size	Berry Scar	Berry Color	Berry Firmness	Berry Flavor	Plant Vigour
Early Duchess	<<100	9.3	7.5	7	8	7.5	8.5
Star	400	7	7	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.5
Suzi Blue	300	7.5	7	7	7.5	7.5	6.5

Ripening Schedule

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Georgia Dawn			
	Star		
	Miss Alice May		
	Miss Lilly		
		Miss Jackie	
	Blue Duchess		
Sweet Duchess			
Early Duchess			

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