

MegaStar (T112-519)



Blueberries

Blueberry type: Southern Highbush.

Released: 2021 Selection.

Key attributes: MegaStar is exclusively released to TopFruit for most African regions south of the equator. It crops mid to late-season and is a typical strong upright floricaner type grower. This low to mid-chill variety has medium-large, firm berries with very good production potential for later harvesting periods.

Chilling Required: Low Chill (-100h < 7.2C).

Flowering: Flower bud break in South Africa is expected from July-August. In Zimbabwe, it is from June-July. PDF = 90 Days. It mostly bears floricaner flowers and fruit. Very late compact flowering.

Pollinator: Shows signs of parthenocarpy, but bees are advised.



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Harvest:	Mid-Late season production: Western Cape from October to January and Zimbabwe from September to November. Can bear very late fruit in a cool climate.
Plant Vigour:	Spreading to upright with vigorous growth. Floricane type grower that needs minimum tipping to form bearing units.
Yield:	Very Good (20 - 25ton/ha). First year production: 1.5-2kg/bush, Second year: 3-4kg/bush and mature plants 5kg+/bush.
Berry size:	Medium to Large size fruit (1.8 – 2.5g/berry), ranging between 15-20mm.
Fruit shape:	Round
Bloom:	Strong; light blue.
Picking:	Very easy picking due to long fruit stems. Small dry scar.
Firmness:	Very firm with good shelf life. Fruit is crisp with a pop sensation when eating.
Flavour:	Crisp & very sweet with good brix, average acidity, very good eating. Brix of 13 to 14.
Licensed Countries:	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Lesotho and Ethiopia.
Comments:	Late season variety, but very precocious that set a heavy crop of floricane fruit. Excellent eating quality. Do not plant under plastic.

Fruit Size	Ripening	Eating Quality	Production
Large	Very Early	Excellent	Very good
	SA (Oct - January) Zimbabwe(Sept-Nov)	Crispy Sweet Very Firm	Very good production from first year of bearing

About IQ Berries: IQB is a private blueberry breeding program based in Brisbane, Australia. Peter Rolfe has extended experience in breeding and farming with blueberries. These selections are on par with the superb genetics emerging from Australia the past few years.