

Tropical Blue (TH-1993)



Blueberries

Blueberry type: Southern Highbush.

Released: 2021 Selection.

Key attributes: Tropical Blue is a recent selection that has been exclusively released to TopFruit as a commercial variety for African countries outside of South Africa. This very low chill, evergreen type blueberry has been selected for early counter-season ripening.

Chilling Required: No chill, evergreen type (0h < 7.2C).

Flowering: Flower bud break from February to June in the Western Cape. Flowers continuously from Dec to April in Zambia. Evergreen type selection that bears fruit in tropical climates. PDF = 80 Days.

Pollinator: Self-pollinating, bees are required at 8-10 hives per ha.





Tropical Blue (TH-1993)

- Harvest:** Out of normal season production. Ripens from April to September in the Western Cape. Ripens from February to June in tropical African climates such as Zambia. It has an extended harvesting season. It keeps on flowering on new shoots.
- Plant Vigour:** Upright to spreading with semi vigorous growth. Bears fruit on very young floricanes. Early pruning is important.
- Yield:** Good (15 - 20 ton/ha) Set fruit from the first year. Production of 1.25kg/bush in 1st year, 2.5kg/bush in 2nd year & 3+kg on mature plants. Excellent yields in Zambia as well.
- Berry size:** Medium size fruit (1.5 – 2g/berry), ranging between 14-18mm.
- Fruit shape:** Round
- Colour:** Medium blue to light blue.
- Bloom:** Very good bloom; light blue.
- Picking Scar:** Small dry scar.
- Firmness:** Moderate firm with fair shelf life. Not recommended for container shipping.
- Flavour:** Crisp & sweet with good brix (11-13°), average acidity, good eating & flavour.
- Disease:** Resistant to rust. No Botryosphaeria spp.
- Licensed countries:** South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, and Lesotho.

Blueberries

Ripening Schedule (Zambia)								
March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
Tropical Blue								
	Sweet Duchess							
	Maverick							
Ripening Schedule (Western Cape)								
	Tropical Blue							
				Sweet Duchess				
					Maverick			

