

Table 28. Highbush blueberry variety descriptions for New England.

Variety	Hardiness	Comments
Berkeley	limited	Late mid-season; productive, easy to propagate, large, light blue fruit.
Bluecrop	hardy	Midseason; med. size, firm berries; some resistance to virus and mummy berry.
Bluegold	hardy	Late mid-season; very productive, firm, round fruit, sky blue, small scar.
Bluejay	hardy	Early to midseason; med. size, firm fruit; some resistance to virus and mummy berry.
Blueray	very hardy	Midseason; large, dark fruit, good flavor, spreading habit, branches may bend to ground with fruit.
Bluetta	moderate	Early season; large fruit, good quality; some resistance to mummy berry.
Brigitta Blue	limited	Late mid-season; Berries medium large, light blue, slightly tart, small dry scar, firm; stores well.
Collins	hardy	Early mid-season; moderate production, large, firm fruit, with good flavor and small scar.
Coville	limited	Late season; large firm fruit, medium scar, good tart flavor. Erratic production, suitable for mechanical harvest.
Darrow	limited	Late season; very large fruit, light blue, firm, with a large scar, excellent tart flavor.
Duke	mod/hardy	Early season; vigorous, very productive. Fruit is large, light blue, firm, mild flavor.
Earliblue	moderate	Early ripening; large, firm fruit with fair flavor; upright, vigorous growth.
Elliott	hardy	Very late-season; heavy producer of medium size, powder blue, very firm, slightly tart fruit; small, dry scar.
Jersey	hardy	Mid to late season; med. size berries, firm with fair flavor; tall, upright plants.
Lateblue	very hardy	Late season; moderate yield, flavor and scar are good.
Meader	hardy	Midseason; large, firm fruit, good flavor; erect, vigorous growth
Nelson	very hardy	Mid to late season; large, firm fruit with good flavor; productive, upright plants.
Northblue	very hardy	Mid-season; semi-dwarf bush, fruit large, dark blue, with a "wild" blueberry flavor.
Northcountry	very hardy	Mid late-season; medium sized fruit, sweet and mild, moderate vigor.
Northland	very hardy	Early mid-season; semi-dwarf bush, fruit medium blue, medium size, very sweet. Bush very productive.
Northsky	very hardy	Mid late-season; fruit sky blue, small to medium in size, stores well.
Patriot	very hardy	Early to midseason; large, firm fruit, good flavor; growth is slow, small plants; some resistance to root rot.
Spartan	hardy	Early season; fruit very large, high quality, excellent flavor; well adapted to machine harvest.
St.Cloud	very hardy	Mid late-season; tallest of the half-highs, moderate yields, fruit medium blue, medium sized , well flavored, with a small dry scar. Stores well.
Toro	hardy	Mid-season; fruit large, firm, exceptional color and flavor, concentrated ripening.

Sources: J. Hancock and E. Hanson, *Blueberry Varieties for Michigan*

Botrytis Blight/Gray Mold (*Botrytis cinerea*):

As with other small fruits, *Botrytis* primarily affects blossoms and ripening fruit, although under certain circumstances the fungus can cause stem blight as well. Infection occurs largely during bloom on flowers. The fungus survives the winter on dead twigs and in soil organic matter. It is present every year, but only causes severe damage during cool, wet periods several days in duration. The most critical period for infection is during bloom. Disease is most severe where excessive nitrogen has been used, where air circulation is poor, or where frost has injured blossoms. Rotted berries typically have a gray cast of the mycelium and spore-bearing structures present which gives the disease its name. Stem

symptoms are hard to distinguish from those infected by *Phomopsis*, and the fungus usually must be isolated from the infected tissue in a diagnostic laboratory. Varieties possessing tight fruit clusters (for example, Weymouth, Blueray and Rancocas) are particularly susceptible to the disease.

Management: When weather or history indicates that *Botrytis* will be a problem, fungicides should be applied, starting at mid-bloom, with subsequent sprays at 7-10 day intervals through petal fall. See pest management schedule for recommended materials and timing.

Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*):

This fungus primarily damages fruit but may also