

Honeyberry / Haskap – *Lonicera caerulea*

Climate								Soil						
Min Optimal Temp (°F)	Max Optimal Temp (°F)	Min Absolute Temp (°F)	Max Absolute Temp (°F)	Growing Degree Days (°F base)	Chilling Hours (32-45 °F)	Min Rainfall (in/year)	Max Rainfall (in/year)	Min pH	Max pH	Optimal Soil Texture	Absolute Soil Texture	Optimal Soil Drainage	Absolute Soil Drainage	Soil Depth (in)
-40 ^{a,d,1}	81 ^{b,1}	-58 ^{a,d,1}	91 ^{b,1}	N/A	N/A	24 ^{i,m,n}	N/A	4.5 ^{b,e,o}	9.0 ^{b,e,o}	clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay loam, loam, silt loam, sandy loam ^{l,q}	clay, sandy clay, silty clay, loamy sand, silt, sand ^{l,q}	well drained, moderately well drained ^{b,q,s}	somewhat excessively drained, well drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained ^{b,q,s}	10 ¹

	Key Months for Crop Development and Thresholds												
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	
Stage of growth (under current conditions)	Dormant	Dormant	Dormant	Budbreak ^{f,g,h}	Budbreak, Flowering ^{f,g,h}	Flowering, Fruit Development ^{f,g,h}	Fruit Development, Fruit Ripening, Harvest ^{f,g,h}	Fruit Ripening, Harvest ^{f,g,h}	Vegetative Growth ^{f,g,h}	Vegetative Growth ^{f,g,h}	Leaf Drop ^{f,g,h}	Dormant	

Key Cultivars:^{h,i,p}

Most haskap cultivars available in the U.S. were developed by Dr. Maxine Thompson out of Oregon State University and Dr. Bob Bors out of the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Thompson's cultivars were bred from Japanese varieties and are suitable for a milder climate. Dr. Bors' cultivars were bred from Russian and Siberian varieties and are suitable for a colder climate.

Early season (mid to late June)

- 'Tundra' (Bors variety)
- 'Indigo Gem' (Bors variety, high yielding, large berry, easy to mechanically harvest)

Mid-season (early to mid July)

- 'Borealis' (Bors variety, high yielding, ripens evenly, large berry, easy to mechanically harvest)
- 'Aurora' (Bors variety, high yielding, ripens evenly, large berry, easy to mechanically harvest)
- 'Honey Bee' (Bors variety)
- 'Tana' (Thompson variety, high yielding)
- '85-19' (Thompson variety, high yielding)
- 'Kaiko' (Thompson variety, large berry)
- 'Solo' (Thompson variety)
- 'Chito' (Thompson variety)
- 'Keiko' (Thompson variety, large berry)
- 'Taka' (Thompson variety, large berry)
- 'Kawai' (Thompson variety)

Late season (late July to early August)

- 'Boreal Blizzard' (Bors variety, large berry)
- 'Boreal Beast' (Bors variety, large berry)
- 'Boreal Beauty' (Bors variety, large berry)

Climate Risk Notes:^{b,k}

Haskap is extremely cold hardy (i.e., hardy to zone 2) and can withstand cold temperatures of -40°F. Flowers have been noted to withstand 17°F and still produce fruit.

However, Russian type varieties need more consistent cold weather. Warm spells in the winter may trigger Russian varieties to budbreak early and be damaged by following frosts. In regions with atypical spring temperatures, select Japanese type varieties developed by Dr. Thompson. They tend to withstand fluctuating winter temperatures better and will remain dormant.

References

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