

Sweet Duchess (TH1321)

The finest of early blueberries



**Global Plant
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2022

SWEET DUCHESS BENEFITS

- **Exceptionally low chill requirements, less than 100 hours**
- **Compact harvesting season**
- **Premium brand berry, sweet, crisp, with outstanding flavour**

Background -

Sweet Duchess (TH1321) was bred by Dr Scott NeSmith at the University of Georgia USA. The breeding programme has a strong focus on flavour as well as all the other attributes we look for in modern blueberry genetics, such as size, yield and disease resistance. Sweet Duchess blueberry would be one of the most exciting low-chill southern highbush blueberry varieties to enter the international blueberry market in recent years. We expect to see Sweet Duchess take a significant market share in the short term, where very early blueberry fruit is in demand. Sweet Duchess has already demonstrated its ability to be easily shipped long distances.

The fruit -

Sweet Duchess flowers two weeks before Star and requires 100 hours chill units or less. The plant has an upright vigour producing fruits medium to light blue in colour with a good bloom. The berry size reaches 25 mm in diameter averaging 1.8 - 2.2 grammes in weight. These round shaped blueberries harvest with a small dry scar producing 20 to 25 tonnes per hectare. The Sweet Duchess blueberry would be described as consistently very firm with an excellent shelf life, being able to withstand international shipping.





SWEET DUCHESS IN ACTION



[Click to play video](#)

SWEET DUCHESS OVERVIEW

Firmness

Exceptionally firm and crunchy fruit. Ships well with superb shelf life

Chilling

0-100 hours

Fruit Size

Maximum berry size 25 mm with an average berry size over the crop of 20 to 22mm

Fruit Colour

Medium to light blue, attractive berries with a good bloom

Seasonality

Exceptionally early, low chill variety

Flavour

One of the best flavoured varieties in the market. A premium brand variety

Agronomy

A healthy plant with little signs of rust or Botryosphaeria observed

Yield

High yields, 20 to 25 tonnes per hectare. Have experienced up to 3 kilos per plant 18 months after planting





EVALUATION RESULTS

	Chill Hours	Berry Size	Berry Scar	Berry Colour	Berry Firmness	Berry Flavour	Plant Vigour
Sweet Duchess	<< 100	8.5	7.5	7	8	8	6.2
Star	400	7	7	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.5
Suziblue	300	7.5	7	7	7.5	7.5	6.5
Blue Duchess	250-350	8.5	8	7	8	7.5	9.5
Early Duchess	<< 100	9.3	7.5	7	8	7.5	8.5

SWEET DUCHESS OVERVIEW

Market

- Sweet Duchess blueberry is an extremely attractive, excellent flavored, high yielding, low-chill blueberry variety
- A world-class blueberry variety for Fresh Market production

Offer

- Sweet Duchess is licensed for trials and commercialization in a number of key blueberry growing areas internationally
- For all Sweet Duchess licencing enquiries please contact Rupert rupert@globalplantgenetics.com - see last page





SWEET DUCHESS REVIEW

"Sweet Duchess is early flowering and ripening blueberry variety with a very low chilling requirement. This variety has a grower-friendly vegetative bush with natural branching and forms a magnitude of bearing units with limited shoot manipulation. The fruit is large, sweet, has a light blue bloom and has extensive storage abilities and shelf life. This variety has the potential to produce good volumes of fruit from the first year of planting."

Pieter Zietsman. Top Fruit, South Africa

If you are interested in the Sweet Duchess blueberry,
please make contact with us for more information



GPG Blueberries



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CONTACT US



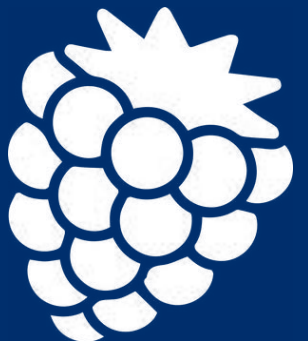
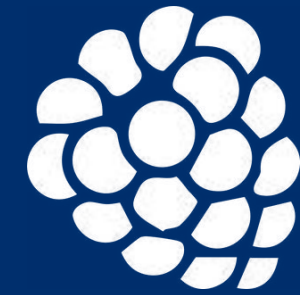
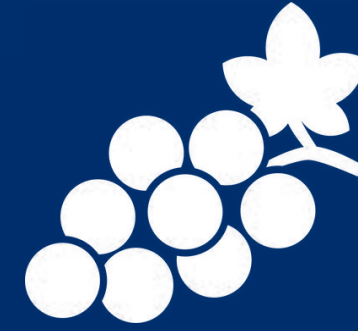
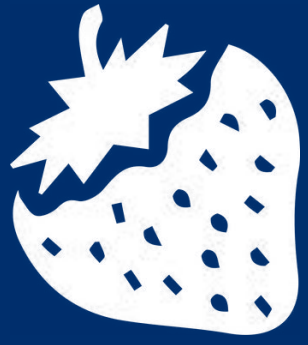
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