

Blueberry varieties for New England farmers

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To help diversify a 100 acre Apple Orchard my father Mike decided to expand into High Bush Blueberries. In 1981 the first blueberry plants were planted of Bluecrop, Spartan and Jersey. Today we have over 10,000 blueberry plants with 12 varieties over 18 acres. During the 80's and 90's the blueberries were harvested for wholesale with very little being sold through pick your own. Today all of the blueberries are picked by pick your own customers.

The majority of our blueberry fields can be broken into two distinctive planting groups, 1981-'88 and 2006-'12. In the 1980's Bluecrop, Jersey and Elliott's made up the majority of our blueberry production. Our second large planting was from 2004-'09 consisting of Dukes and Patriots. In 2012 we also added Nelson, Bonus and Aurora's.

Listing of our varieties in ripening order.

Duke – Is a great berry, large, sweet and very early. Can be slow to produce new shoots.

Early Blue – Very prolific production, poor color berry.

Hannah's Choice – Test planting, we had hoped it would ripen before Duke. Has questionable winter hardness but is growing and producing well.

Polaris – Very prolific, very sweet berry, medium size

Spartan – Very Large berry, excellent flavor. Can be susceptible winter damage. Older variety that we will be replacing with newer varieties

Patriots – Extended picking window, excellent large berry with great flavor, high yielding.

Blue Crop – Old stable, excellent large berry with great flavor, very high yielding. We have installed trellis to keep branches from bending over.

Nelson – Great berry, sweet large berry, great replacement for Jersey

Jersey – Customer favorite. Low yielding small sweet berries. Produces more wood than berries!

Bonus – Huge sweet berries, great late mid-season variety

Elliott – Great late season, excellent quality, great color and strong flavor. Elliott seems to be the worst for biannual bearing.

Aurora – Even later ripening than Elliott by a few days. Great berry with a great flavor