



# HONEYBERRY



## FAMILY

Caprifoliaceae

## BOTANICAL NAME

*Lonicera caerulea* L.

## CULTIVARS

Aurora, Honeybee, Indigo Treat, Beauty, Solo, Maxie, Blizzard

## COMMON NAMES

Haskap, Blue Honeysuckle, Sweet Berry Honeysuckle, Swamp Fly Honeysuckle, Madreselva Azul

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## CULTIVATION

### PERIOD

Spring

### PROPAGATION

Honeyberries are self-incompatible and need other pollinizer genotypes for cross-pollination. Clones can be propagated by softwood cuttings, hardwood cuttings, crown division and tissue culture. Seed propagation is also viable. Plant should be spaced 1 m. (3 ft.) apart if you want to form a hedge or 1.3 m. (4.25 ft.) if you want individual bushes.

### GROWING CONDITIONS

Soil: Prefers well drained soils and soils with high organic matter content. Soil pH: Tolerates a pH range of 5 to 7. Temperature: Cold hardy -47°C (-53°F). Grows well in USDA Hardiness Zones 1-8. Water Requirement: Water well for the first 3 years. Always water before you see signs of wilting.

### CARING FOR THE GROWING PLANT

Water as needed but discontinue in the fall to promote occurrence of dormancy. Fertilize if necessary and control weeds, insects, diseases and birds. Prune late winter to early spring and thin out bushes when they become too dense. Protect plants from the impacts of direct winds with windbreaks.

### DAYS TO MATURITY

Start fruiting one year after planting but start producing kilos per bush after 4 years.

## AREAS COMMONLY CULTIVATED

High latitudes and colder moderate climates

## PLANT DESCRIPTION

It is a deciduous shrub that grows to 1.5-2 m. (4.9-6.5 ft.) tall with a soft and mild flavored fruit.

## VISIT US

<http://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/carc/plant-systems/>

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## HARVEST / YIELD POTENTIAL

Berries can be shaken off at harvest time. Potential yield is 3 to 7 kilos (6.6 - 15.4 lb.) per bush after 5 years. Berries can store for a couple of weeks.

## GROWING STEPS

Buy planting material from a reliable source and start clones indoors or in a greenhouse if you want to use clones to begin your garden. Prepare your site or containers. Plant when conditions are optimum. Water as needed but stop in the fall. Fertilize when plants are grown if necessary. Control weeds, insects, diseases and bird pests. Harvest when mature.

## POTENTIAL PESTS AND DISEASES

### PESTS

Leafrollers (Omnivorous leafroller)

### DISEASES

Powdery mildew

## CULINARY USES

Pastries, jam, juice, wine, ice cream, cake, and yogurt

## NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS

Vitamin A, B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>6</sub>, C, and E. It also contains fiber, protein, potassium, calcium, sodium, zinc, copper, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, and iron.

## REPORTED HEALTH BENEFITS

Anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties, good for vision, prevents colon cancer, and improves cardiovascular health

## REFERENCES

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