

## The 'Elliott' Blueberry

A. D. DRAPER, D. H. SCOTT AND J. W. NELSON<sup>1</sup>

'Elliott' blueberry, *Vaccinium australe* Small, is a late-ripening, productive highbush blueberry cultivar with good machine-harvesting characteristics. It has performed well in Michigan and New Jersey and should be tried in all areas where the growing season is long enough.

Tested as E-70, 'Elliott', originated from a cross of 'Burlington' x 'US1' (Dixi x [Jersey x Pioneer]) made at Beltsville, Md. by George M. Darrow in 1947. Seedlings of this cross were sent to Arthur Elliott at Otter Lake, Mi. in 1948. Mr. Elliott later selected E-70 as a seedling with promising commercial possibilities and propagated it for testing.

The 'Elliott' blueberry is named for Mr. Elliott in recognition of his outstanding cooperation in the breeding program and of his enthusiastic devotion for more than 25 years to the improvement of blueberry cultivars.

Plants of 'Elliott' grow vigorously and are upright, winter-hardy, and consistently productive. In a replicated planting at Grand Junction, Mi., 'Elliott' ranked fourth or higher in the top-yielding 10 varieties for the 5 years that records were kept (Table 1).

In 1973, the most productive varieties yielded 7½ lb/plant on 7-year-old plants. An observation row of 'Elliott' in New Jersey has been consistently productive. The fruit is borne in loose clusters; is firm, light blue, and medium-sized; and has a good, mild flavor. It is the latest highbush cultivar, ripening about 3 weeks after Jersey and 7 to 10 days after 'Lateblue'. 'Elliott' is resistant to both phases of mummy berry disease, *Monilina vaccinii-corymbosi* (Reade) Honey, which attacks shoots and fruit (1).

'Elliott' harvests well mechanically, because it has concentrated ripening, and most of the fruit can be harvested in one or two pickings. Mechanical harvesters remove practically all ripe fruits, and immature fruits remain on the bush.

Rooted cuttings were distributed to nurserymen in the spring of 1974, and plants should be available for growers in the fall of 1974. The U. S. Department of Agriculture does not have plants for distribution.

### Literature Cited

1. Nelson, John W. and H. C. Bittenbender. 1971. Mummy berry disease occurrence in a blueberry selection test planting. *Plant Dis. Rept.* 55(7):615-653.

Table 1. Rank\* of blueberry variety yields at Grand Junction, Mi., for 1699-1973.

Rank	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Bluecrop	Northland	Jersey	Bluecrop	Northland
	Northland	Elliott	Northland	Collins	Elliott
	Rubel	Rubel	Elliott	Elliott	Lateblue
	Elliott	Blueray	Blueray	Lateblue	Jersey
	Blueray	Lateblue	Rubel	Rubel	Blueray
	Bluehaven	Earliblue	Lateblue	Northland	Bluecrop
	Bluetta	Bluetta	Bluecrop	Bluetta	Collins
	Jersey	Jérsey	Bluetta	Jersey	Coville
	Lateblue	Bluecrop	Bluehaven	Coville	Rubel
	Collins	Coville	Berkeley	Blueray	Berkeley

\*Because of high interplot variation, varietal means were not separated statistically.

<sup>1</sup>Research Geneticist and Research Horticulturist, respectively, Fruit Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland 20705, and Director of Research, Michigan Blueberry Growers Association, Grand Junction, Michigan.