

# Lateblue, a New Late-Ripening Blueberry Variety<sup>1</sup>

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A new blueberry variety, the Lateblue, that ripens 7 to 10 days later than any other variety has been introduced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Since much of the fruit ripens in a short time, all of the fruit can be harvested in two pickings and in some seasons in only one picking.

Lateblue, tested as G-99, originated as a seedling from a cross of Herbert x Coville made by G. M. Darrow in 1950, and selected by him, D. H. Scott, and L. F. Hough in 1956 from a progeny of 493 seedlings growing at Weymouth, New Jersey.

Plants of Lateblue are erect, vigorous, and consistently productive as tested in New Jersey. In 1966, 5-foot high bushes, 5 years in the field, yielded 9 to 10 pints per plant, which compares favorably with similar sized bushes of Darrow. The fruit is borne in medium-sized rather loose clusters, and picks easily. The berries are medium in size, highly flavored, firm, light blue in color, and have small

stem scars. Since the fruit remains in good condition on the plants for extended periods of time, the harvest date is less critical than with some varieties. Some comparative ratings made at Weymouth, N. J., are given in Table 1.

Lateblue shows promise as a late-ripening variety that can extend the season in the central Atlantic Coastal area.

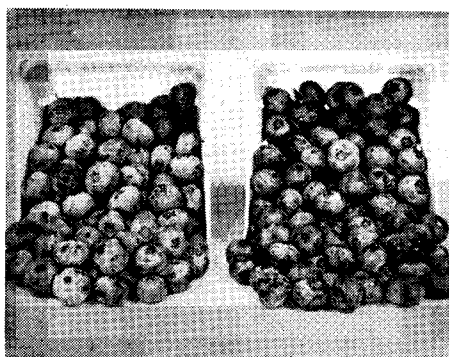


Fig. 1. Lateblue blueberry (right) compared with the Berkeley variety (left).

Table 1. Ratings<sup>1</sup> of characters of some blueberry varieties

Variety	Size	Scar	Col.	Firm	Prod.	Flav.	Days after Bluecrop
Bluecrop	9	8	9	10	10	7	0
Berkeley	10	6	10	10	6	6	10
Coville	10	7	8	10	6	9	20
Darrow	10	8	9	8	8	10	20
Lateblue	7	8	8	9	8	8	30

<sup>1</sup>Rating of 10 indicates most desirable characteristic, 1 the least desirable.

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